

Redcar & Cleveland Childcare Sufficiency Report 2021



Children & Families Directorate
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

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Childcare Sufficiency Report 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background legislation

Childcare provision is a crucial part of today's society and an integral part of family life as it enables parents to work, improves children's outcomes and helps narrow the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

Over the last 15 years progress has been made to increase the affordability and availability of childcare in the UK. Working parents are able to receive help to fund childcare and non-working parents are able to access funded childcare to improve their child's life chances.

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.

1.2 Childcare Sufficiency

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.

The provision needs 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.

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account what is reasonably practicable when assessing what sufficient childcare means, including:

- background and contextual information regarding population, labour market information (LMI), early years and childcare provision across the Borough;

- information about the supply of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision;
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers; and
- details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed, if applicable.

Due to COVID-19 and lockdown, there is also a section in the report about how the pandemic has affected the childcare market over the period 6 January 2021 to 8th March 2021 when schools were closed however private nurseries and childminders remained open.

1.3 The Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report

The Children & Families Act 2014 repealed the duty on local authorities to prepare assessments about the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area at least every 3 years; replacing this with the duty to report annually to Elected Members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare.

There is a requirement to make the annual childcare sufficiency report available and accessible to parents; the report is therefore published on the Redcar and Cleveland website and People's Information Network (PIN). The results of the audit of existing childcare provision can be found in Appendix 1.

The Local Authority is responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in the report, geographical division and date of publication. However, the report should include:

- specific reference to how we are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children, children from families in receipt of the childcare element of working tax credit or universal credit, children aged 2, 3 and 4 taking up early education places, school aged children and children needing holiday care;
- information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, including affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
- details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed, where applicable.

1.4 Progress since 2020

The Childcare Sufficiency Report of 2020 was published on the Redcar and Cleveland website and People's Information Network. Although the results of the childcare occupancy audit demonstrated that overall there were sufficient childcare places across the borough, it was acknowledged that these pre-school places may not necessarily be in the locations that parents would prefer or be flexible enough to meet the needs of working parents. Work continued over the last year to try to encourage partnership working between settings to increase flexibility, for instance between schools and private day nurseries or childminders.

During 2021, childcare places within the Borough continued to be of a high quality; this is evidenced by the majority of childcare providers achieving judgements of 'Good' or above by Ofsted in their inspection of registered service providers. In 2020, 77% of childcare provider (private day nurseries

and childminders) were rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. In 2021, the percentage increased further to 82 %.

The childcare parent/carers’ survey conducted in June/July this year to inform the 2021 childcare sufficiency report, has highlighted that a small number of parents are experiencing problems accessing childcare in the right location and covering the hours they need to meet their requirements.

652 parents completed the survey with 275 who use childcare, this is an increase on last year when 122 parents completed the survey; and when the 275 were asked:

- Do you think childcare in Redcar and Cleveland is in the right location for your needs?
89% of parents felt childcare was in the right location and 11% felt it was not (25 parents)
- Do you think childcare in Redcar and Cleveland covers the hours you need?
74% of parents felt that childcare did cover the hours they needed and only 26% (59 parents), felt that it did not.

The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has resulted in 2021 being a particularly difficult year for both families and the childcare market as a whole. The impact of COVID-19 is explored further in this report, however in short, it has meant that childcare providers have had to be responsive and adaptable in a way they have never experienced before. Initially schools closed in January 2021 to March 2021 to all but keyworker or vulnerable children, reopening to all on 8th March. Nurseries and childminders were open to keyworker or vulnerable children throughout the lockdown period in 2021. Settings have specific control measures in place to mitigate against the spread of the virus.

Contextual Information

Redcar and Cleveland is a borough of outstanding natural beauty with coastal and rural areas. Alongside this there is a concentration of heavy industry, predominately in petro-chemicals which has been relied upon to provide employment for a great number of our residents.

In the 2011 census Redcar and Cleveland had a population of 135,177 of which 98.6% were White British. There is a greater level of diversity in the school-aged child population than suggested by the latest Census data (2011). As at January 2020 (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>), 4.33% of children attending state-funded secondary schools and 3.56% 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	13129	479	3.65%
State-funded secondary	8299	359	4.33%
State-funded special school	383	9	2.35%
PRU	109	5	4.59%
Total	21920	852	3.89%

The resident population in 2019 was 137,200 and in 2018 was 136,700 (www.nomisweb.co.uk). The 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 will decrease by 6.5% over the period 2016 to 2020, from approx. 7,700 to 7,200 children.

The table below shows the child population and population as a whole in 2019, compared to 2017.

	All residents	Aged 0-4 years	Aged 5-7 years	Aged 8-9 years	Aged 10-14 years	Child population (aged 0-14 years)
2019	137,150	7,106	4,975	3,320	7,877	23,278
2017	136,005	7,554	4,978	3,070	7,527	23,129
% change 2017/2019	+0.8%	-6.3%	-0.06%	+7.5%	+4.4%	+0.6%

Source: ONS mid-year estimates 2017; Census 2011

Child population projections

	Age range (000's)			
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total 0-14 years
2019	7.2	8.2	7.8	23.2
2020	7.2	8.2	7.9	23.3
2021	7.0	8.2	8.2	23.4
2022	6.8	8.1	8.5	23.4
2023	6.7	7.8	8.6	23.1
% change 2019 to 2023	-7.4%	-5.1%	+9.3%	-0.43%

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

There are bold and ambitious plans detailed in Redcar and Cleveland's Local Plan that sets out the planned new housing developments across the borough; from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022 a total of 2,453 new homes are planned. The Local Plan recognises the need to retain the borough's working age population in order to assist with objectives to increase employment, stimulate economic growth, reduce dependency ratios and rebalance the population profile. The corporate objective is to grow the population by approximately 250 people per year more than official population estimates, with a particular focus on working age households and families.

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 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 40th 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 26% (6,400) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average.

The Indices of deprivation

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND



<https://ocsi.uk/indices-of-deprivation/> Indices of deprivation 2019

2. Children and Young People in Redcar and Cleveland

The Public Health England, Child Health Profile, March 2020 states that the health and wellbeing of children in Redcar and Cleveland is generally worse than the England average. 25.2% of children under the age of 16 are classed as living in child poverty; this is higher than the regional average of 22.6% and national average of 17.0%.

For every 100 children and young people:

- 25.2% live in poverty
- 43.5% Average Attainment 8 score
- 5.4% between the ages of 16 to 18 will not be in education, employment or training
- 12.5% children aged 4-5 years are classified as obese and 22.1% will be obese by the age of 10-11 years.

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles/data#page/1/qid/1938133228/pat/6/par/E12000001/ati/102/are/E06000003/cid/4>

2.1 Labour Market Information (LMI)

The traditional employment base of Redcar and Cleveland has been manufacturing based on steel, chemicals and heavy engineering. However, over recent decades, there has been a decline in these industries which has impacted upon many communities in the borough and the north east, resulting in areas of urban deprivation and a declining population.

The chemical industry, mainly based at Wilton International, is a vitally important part of the local, regional and national economy. Despite the cessation of steel making in Redcar, the steel sector continues to be an important part of the local economy. Teesport is one of the largest freight ports in the UK, a major employer in the borough and a key economic asset for the Tees Valley. The port forms part of a wider logistics sector which has expanded in recent years and has the potential for further growth (Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan adopted May 2018). In March 2021, as part of the Spring Budget, Tees Valley was announced as one of the first places to get Freeport status under the new Government policy to create Freeports across the country. - [Teesside Freeport - Tees Valley Combined Authority \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)

Redcar and Cleveland has lower levels of economic activity and higher levels of unemployment than national averages; levels of unemployment are 1.6% higher than Great Britain but are 0.4% lower than the average North East rate.

2.2 Economic activity

Economic activity in Redcar and Cleveland (the number or percentage of people of working age who are either in employment or who are unemployed); is lower than the North East region and Great Britain as a whole, with 72.3% of people economically active in Redcar and Cleveland compared to 76.3% North East and 79% for the whole of Great Britain. Our Borough's unemployment levels are lower at 4.1% than regional levels at 7.5%, and lower than national averages at 4.5%.

Economic activity rates October 2019-September 2020

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	Great Britain
	%	%	%
All people:	137,200	2,669,900	64,903,100
Economically active	72.3%	76.3%	79%
In employment	67.8%	71.5%	75.7%
Employees	60.1%	63.4%	65.1%
Self employed	10.2%	10%	13.4%
Unemployed	4.1%	7.5%	4.5%

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

Earnings by place of residence

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 (2020)

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	Great Britain
Gross weekly pay	£502.90	£523.50	£587.10
Hourly pay	£12.86	£13.66	£15.18

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

Economic inactivity rates October 2019 to September 2020

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	Great Britain
	%	%	%
All people: economically inactive	27.7%	23.7%	21.0%
Not wanting a job	77.1%	75.1%	78.3%
Wanting a job	22.9%	24.9%	21.7%

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 retired; 13.4% compared to 13.4% in the North East and 13.5% in Great Britain.

Out of work benefits

From November 2018 Universal Credit (UC) means-tested benefit for people of working age who are on a low income will be operational in Redcar and Cleveland. Under UC a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out the number of people being recorded on the claimant count is likely to rise.

As at February 2021 7.3% of Redcar and Cleveland's resident population aged 16-64 years old were claiming out of work benefits, compared to 7.2% regionally and 6.4% nationally. (For info: July 2021 5.9% Redcar/6.1% NE & 5.5% GB).

23.3% of households in Redcar and Cleveland are workless, compared to 20.3% in the North East and 13.9% across Great Britain (January to December 2019, source: ONS annual population survey).

3. Overview of Childcare in Redcar and Cleveland

Redcar and Cleveland has a well-established market to meet the demands of parents with regards to their childcare requirements, with a combination of school-based, privately owned and voluntary sector or independently-led facilities (PVI), including childminders.

Childcare providers cater for private working customers requiring care for babies from 6 weeks of age upwards, as well as for primary age children around the school day. In addition to income from these private customers, childcare settings across the borough rely heavily on local authority funded

early years places (which are free of charge to parents at the point of delivery), and of which there are three main types:

- Early Education Places for 2 year olds for low income or unemployed families (15 hours a week)
- Early Education Places for 3 & 4 year olds (15 hours a week for all)
- The Extended entitlement (up to 30 hours a week) for 3 & 4 year olds of working parents

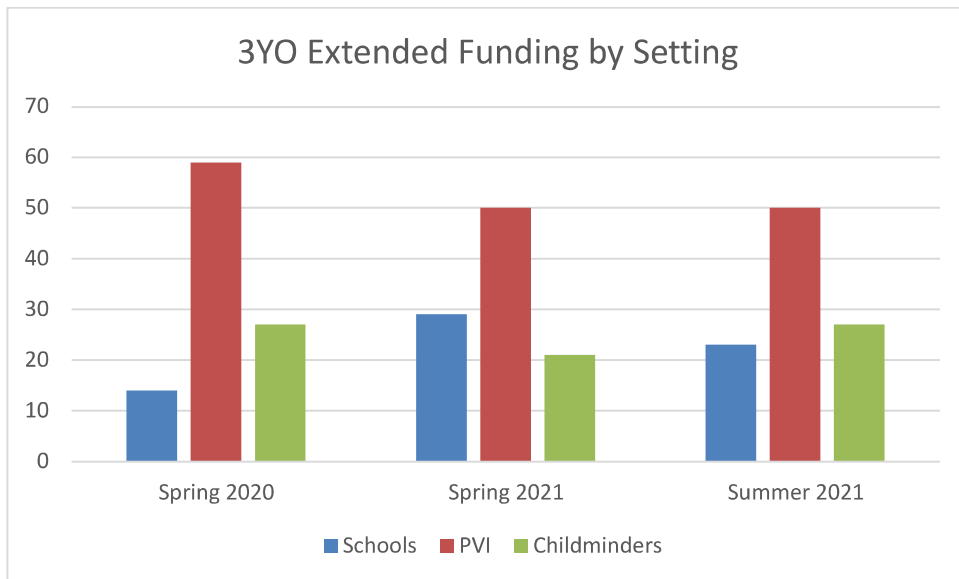
Parental choice for the 2 year old entitlement is spread across the sector and children who qualify for this free 15 hours of funded childcare can access their place in a setting that meets their individual needs. The highest percentage of families access their child's 2 year old place within a private day nursery 69%, compared to 21% within a school nursery setting and 10% with childminders.

Nationally, the take up of 2 year old funded childcare places for 2019, is 68%*. This is a decrease from last year's figure of 72%. However, in Redcar and Cleveland, figures from the January early years census in 2021 show that 76% of eligible children were accessing their entitlement which is much higher than the national average.

*Source: National Statistics; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2019 - official figures only published every 2 years from 2019 next release 2021.

Across the Borough, school nurseries, private sector settings and childminders are registered by Ofsted to offer 3 & 4 year old universal early years education places for 15 hours per week. The highest proportion 82.4% (compared to 90% in 2020), accessed a place within a school nursery setting, whereas 12.4% (9.5% in 2020) accessed their 15 hours per week place with a private day nursery and only 5.2% (0.5% in 2020) were with childminders. This is a 7.6% increase on last years' figures for PVI settings including Childminders. Although, the trend of most children in our borough attending a school nursery is reflected nationally, it should be noted that our use of the PVI sector, albeit slightly higher this year compared to last, is still much lower than either the regional or national picture. In the North East 24% of children took up their universal 15 hours per week in PVI settings and nationally it was 42%, compared to our average of only 6% in PVIs, according to the January 2020 early years census.

For working parents only, the take up of the 3 & 4 year old extended entitlement of 30 hours demonstrates a different picture; with the highest proportion (50%), taking up a place in a private day nursery, whilst (21%) are with childminders and (29%) are within a school nursery setting. This is similar to last year, but it should be noted that there has been a decrease in children attending a PVI setting and an increase in attendance at school nurseries since 2020. This is due to more schools now offering extended funding. However, the PVI sector still has the highest proportion of children taking the extended funding.



The local childcare market supports parents to work and access training so is vital to the Borough’s economic success. It also employs a large number of our residents in day nurseries or in self-employment as registered childminders. In addition, the Education Policy Institute (EPI) and the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) have published recent reports which demonstrate there is good evidence that attending high-quality early years provision can improve a wide range of child outcomes, from ensuring children’s healthy cognitive, behavioural, social and physical development, to laying the foundations for future, longer-term developmental milestones. These are also key factors in improving outcomes for children and families.

3.1 Informal Childcare

Research by the social policy division of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported that the use of informal childcare increases as children move from the 0-2 year old age group to the 3-5 year old age group, reflecting the increase in the likelihood of parents with children in this age group being employed. Informal childcare rates often fall as children reach compulsory school age, however often incompatibility between school and working hours require some informal childcare arrangements to continue. Informal childcare for children in the lower years of secondary school can be accessed through sporting or other leisure activities and after school homework clubs. Although it is acknowledged that informal childcare is an important source of support to parents; there are no local data sources that record the volume and frequency of informal childcare, nor at what time of the day this type of childcare use occurs. Without this information, it is difficult to build up a comprehensive picture of the ways in which parents use different forms of childcare, which is important for understanding how childcare can work best to support parents back to work or to increase their hours of work. It is generally accepted that those who work atypical hours (nights/weekends) respond in surveys about the lack of flexibility from formal childcare providers, and this remains an issue nationally as on the whole, the childcare market has not felt it is financially viable to respond with this provision for a small minority. (Source: <http://www.oecd.org/els/family/PF3-3-Informal-childcare-arrangements.pdf>)

3.2 Formal Childcare

Formal childcare is largely defined as Ofsted registered provision (for quality control and child protection purposes). Childcare is primarily needed to enable parents and carers to go to work or to access training. Another significant demand on the sector is the statutory duty to deliver sufficient early years education funded places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

The Childcare Sufficiency (CSA) Report and findings from the associated Occupancy Audit relate solely to all provision registered as an Ofsted-regulated childcare provider.

Ofsted registered childminders and day nurseries provide full day care places for children aged 6 weeks old and above, generally operating between 7.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Wrap-around childcare is also available to support parents and carers to access before and after-school and pre-school provision across the day. Holiday provision is available for working parents but reporting is unreliable, as much is provided through non-registered settings such as sport and leisure centres.

It is acknowledged that provision should be as flexible as possible to support those parents working atypical hours, as mentioned above. There are currently 3 childminders registered to provide overnight care and 10 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 successfully. It should be noted, however, that the number of such enquiries is very low so cannot be relied upon as an accurate reflection of demand (see section above on 'informal' childcare).

However, when parents were asked: *Do you think childcare in Redcar and Cleveland covers the hours you need?* as part of the 2021 childcare survey, 59 parents (26%) who answered the question said No; 34 out of 59 parents commented and below are some of these comments:

- The child care process are expensive and come to twice as much as my mortgage! The hours are not long enough.
- Very expensive, not much choice of childcare for my child near my area that have space, only full days or half days. Not flexible
- As a single parent with very little support I struggle finding adequate work and childcare to cover the hours required by most employers now. which seem to cover late night very early starts and inclusive of availability over weekends and childcare just covers generalised monday to Friday 7:30am till 5:30. Pm

As these comments demonstrate, although overall we do have a flexible offer across the borough, it is about parental choice and sometimes parents want a specific day nursery or childminder which may be easy for them to access but isn't quite offering them the exact hours they want. So, although it may be available elsewhere in the borough, they still report that this does not meet their needs as shown in two of the three comments above where parents are still using that specific setting but feel they have had to compromise (e.g many day nurseries and childminders open until 6pm). Following on from this, as the childcare market responds to parental requests for childcare outside of normal hours, or changes in the ways parent's access their childcare, it is envisaged that new ways of working will be introduced; partnerships between different providers will become more formalised e.g. between schools and nearby day nurseries. However, COVID-19 has created more difficulties for

such partnerships, as mixing children across different settings has not been possible due to this increasing the risk of cross-contamination.

3.3 Early Education Places for 2 Year Olds

In September 2013 the Government introduced a legal duty on local authorities to secure free early education places for 2 year olds; offering 570 hours a year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, for every eligible child. Initially children who met the free school meals criteria, or children who were looked after by the local authority, qualified for a free place. Access to high quality childcare is vital to improve children's educational outcomes, particularly for the most disadvantaged groups including children with special educational needs and disabilities and those who are living in poverty. From September 2014 the Government extended the eligibility criteria to allow more children to access a free place, including children:

- whose families were in receipt of working tax credit and earning no more than £16,190 a year;
- who have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan;
- who are in receipt of disability living allowance; and/or
- who are in care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order.

During the COVID pandemic in 2020, the government also introduced an additional criterion that meant 2 year old children who were open to social care could also access a free place even if their parents would not have met the criteria financially (on WTC or Universal Credit)

Since the introduction of the 2 year old entitlement, there has been a large increase in demand for early education places across the Borough. The Department for Education has closely monitored take-up figures, to ensure we are engaging with and encouraging eligible families to access their free childcare places.

The number of children in Redcar and Cleveland accessing a 2 year old place showed a slight decrease this year compared to 2020. For example, at the end of Spring term 2020, 551 children were taking up a place which was 86% of those eligible according to the DWP, compared to 530 children the end of Spring term 2021 which was 84%. 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 still consistently above the national average of 69% (last published in 2020).** Unfortunately as COVID-19 impacts on employers and more people become unemployed, it is anticipated that demand for free 2 year old childcare places may increase again across the borough.

**Covid 19 started 23 March 2020 so didn't fully impact 2YO funding in spring term 2020, it mainly affected summer term as we remained in lockdown for most of summer term last year with most providers only opening fully in June. There was a significant decrease in the number of 2YO applications in Summer 2020 which could be attributed to lack of parental confidence or given there were only a few weeks until the end of term. Lockdown started and finished in spring term 2021 so it is difficult to draw an accurate comparison between the two years, taking into consideration that in 2020 funding was paid to childcare providers and schools regardless of whether the children attended in line with Government policy during COVID-19, however in 2021 it was only paid to those who attended.

Work continues to promote the 2 year old entitlement to vulnerable families in the borough. In 2018 an updated golden ticket was produced to highlight the application process and encourage eligible parents to redeem their ticket at a local day nursery or school. These are still used in marketing and promotional activity and prove very popular with some parents ringing the FIS to enquire when they will be getting their golden ticket.

Some highlights of the promotional campaign to date have included:

- direct mail to those eligible - golden ticket campaign (using data from DWP eligibility lists);
- vinyl banners (displayed at all schools, childcare settings and by childminders);
- media adverts in Primary Times and This is Redcar and Cleveland residents magazine;
- FIS Facebook adverts and People's Information Network (PIN) website features.

In April 2016, a self-service childcare eligibility on-line checking system was introduced for the 2 year old offer. The eligibility checker is hosted on the home page of the Peoples' Information Network (PIN) website and enables parents to determine their entitlement to access a free 15 hours 2 year old early education place for their child. The parent is notified immediately of the outcome and they can then search for a childcare provider using the PIN website. A childcare voucher can be downloaded and redeemed with the parent's preferred childcare provider.

Childcare providers are also utilising the on-line checking system when carrying out a golden ticket eligibility check, ensuring that parents receive an instant response and are able to make childcare arrangements whilst with the provider.

3.4 Early Education Places for 3 & 4 Year Olds

The local authority is required by law to secure sufficient early education places for 3 & 4 year olds; offering 570 hours a year, over no fewer than 38 weeks, for every eligible 3 or 4 year old child in the borough until the child reaches compulsory school age (i.e. the term after their 3rd birthday to the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday). This is a universal entitlement equating to 15 hours per week and is not means tested.

In Redcar and Cleveland, maintained nursery classes in primary schools (including academies) continue to maintain a high percentage of funded 3 & 4-year olds, with 82.4% in 2021 compared to 90% in 2020 taking up their universal funded early years' place in a school nursery; (however the decrease could be due to the pandemic and school nurseries closing in January). 5.2% took up universal funding with Childminders and 12.4% with PVI's in spring term 2021. Comparatively, the national figure for take-up of the 15 hours' nursery provision in schools has slightly decreased year on year. In January 2020, only 75% of children in the North East took up their place in a school nursery compared to a lower national figure of 56%. It is apparent that Redcar and Cleveland have a significantly higher proportion of children accessing school-based universal nursery provision that continues to increase, when regionally and nationally the numbers are decreasing. 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.

In 2016, the Childcare Act gave working parents an additional 15 hours free childcare for 3 & 4 year olds from September 2017; this represents one of the most significant recent changes to the

childcare market. These pre-school places are used by families who would otherwise have had to pay for this childcare and increases the number of childcare hours for eligible 3 & 4 year olds, up to a maximum of 30 hours a week. This equates to an annual entitlement of 1140 hours per year, with the flexibility to take the hours either term time only (over 38 weeks), or to take less hours per week over the whole year to meet the needs of parents that work. Parents do continue to pay childcare providers for any additional hours above the 30 hours entitlement.

This new legislation supports working parents and offers a financial incentive to unemployed parents to help them secure and sustain employment. The eligibility criteria are:

- If a two parent household, both parents must earn the equivalent of 16 hours work paid at the minimum wage;
- If a lone parent household, the parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours work paid at the minimum wage;
- If one parent is temporarily on parental, maternity or adoption leave or on statutory sick pay, they can be temporarily excluded from the above;
- If one parent is employed, and the other has substantial caring responsibilities or is disabled or incapacitated (based on specific benefits), they can be excluded; and
- There is an earning cap of £100k per individual.

The number of 30 hours (extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds) places paid to childcare providers decreased from 700 (summer term 2020) to 679 (summer term 2021). In 2020 during lockdown funding was paid to childcare providers and schools regardless of whether the children attended, in line with Government policy during COVID-19; however in 2021 lockdown it was only paid to those who attended. Most places for 30 hours were registered within private day nurseries, although this has decreased from 2020 when it was 59% of the market share, to 51% in 2021 and reflects the fact that the childminder's proportion of the market for 30 hours decreased from to 29% in 2020 to 26% in 2021. Schools also decreased their proportion of the extended entitlement places in 2020; decreasing to 12% in 2020 but increasing to 23% in 2021 which reflects the fact they reopened to all children in summer term (following lockdown in spring term where they were only open to keyworker and vulnerable children). Most parents chose to use the 15 hours extended alongside the universal 15 hours at a school setting (where school offered 30 hours provision) to avoid using more than one setting to avoid cross contamination.

The tables below summarise this data:

30 hours Extended figures Summer term

Places	CMs	PVIs	Schools	Total
2020	202	414	84	700
2021	174	346	159	679

% Market Share	CMs	PVIs	Schools
2020	29	59	12
2021	26	51	23

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

In September 2017, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy, 2017 – 2020 was introduced outlining the Local Authority's plans and priorities until 2020;

Our vision is to provide excellent SEND provision within our Borough to improve outcomes for Children/Young People aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Early Years SEND Practitioner team was created in April 2017 to provide seamless support for children with SEND aged 0 to 5 years and their families. The practitioners work in partnership with professionals to support individual family's needs on a one to one basis and by facilitating family groups. They utilise the information available through the Local Offer to source relevant services, giving parents access to advice about available childcare services, short breaks and a range of activities. In September 2018, the effectiveness of the team was further enhanced following the appointment of an Early Years Area SEN Coordinator (SENCO), as team manager. In April 2019, the team joined the wider SEND teams based within the Education Service, to make sure there was a consistent and informed approach to meeting children's needs as they develop from pre-school through to school age and beyond.

The team also work closely with childcare providers, including school nurseries, settings and childminders to give advice and support with strategies, equipment and plan targets. This supports inclusive practice for all children.

The Early Years SEND Practitioners initiate the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) process, by holding a Referral Planning Meeting (RPM). This year the Early Years SEND Practitioners have completed 34 Referral Planning Meetings (RPM's) from September 2020-May 2021. The team support children's transitions into school and hold transition meetings to ensure that parent's wishes and the voice of the child are captured. Transition meetings can be held virtually or face to face. The meetings facilitate information being shared between settings that know the child and the staff from the new school, collaborative working ensures that the child has a smooth transition.

The Early Years SEND panel allocates resources to support the needs of children with complex needs, including one-to-one funding when appropriate. Whilst the service to date has 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 a potential area of significant pressure for the local authority as the extended entitlement becomes more embedded.

However, in the last year, all 2 year olds with additional needs, who wished to access a free childcare place, have been successfully placed with appropriate providers including childminders, day nurseries and schools. Varying levels of support and advice are provided to the settings by the early years SEND practitioners and the Early Years Area SENCo, depending on the child's individual needs. Specialist training is provided to settings where necessary if a child has a specific complex need or condition.

The team works in partnership with therapists to ensure that a holistic approach is adopted to meet the needs of individual children.

Childcare providers can apply for additional funding if it is deemed the child will need a one-to-one practitioner or to request additional training or access support and advice. Any requests are assessed by the Early Years SEND panel; the Early Years Area SENCo chairs the multiagency panel and directs the work of the team following requests at panel.

The local authority funds requests approved at panel from the SEN Inclusion Fund, this budget has been established from the early year's funding block within the dedicated schools grant. The panel also consider whether the child has complex health needs that would meet the criteria for continuing health care funding and practitioners have been trained to complete the Decision Support Tool (DST) which is an assessment form.

In the last year, a successful continuing health care application was made by an Early Years SEND Practitioner to secure 15 hours 1:1 funding for a child placed at Woodlands assessment nursery. The funding has been allocated for a year from the health budget. The child with complex health needs will be supported by a one to one health care professional. This place is additional to the places that have been allocated and funded through the local authority's nursery education grant and higher needs funding (Dedicated Schools Grant).

The settings across the borough support children's special educational needs and disabilities up to the end of the May 2021. In total, there were 84 children accessing 1:1 support, being intensively supported, 38 in school nurseries and 46 in private day nurseries and with childminders.

Within the sector, the following two specialist settings provide early years' education places for 25 of these 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 0	2 year olds 3 (including 1 child who accesses 30 hours a week)
3 & 4 year olds 13	3 & 4 year olds 5 (including 3 x 30 hours)
Total 13	Total 8 (4 are receiving 30 hours)
1 three year old is accessing funding through the CCG, due to complex health needs.	

Capacity in Dots N Spots Specialist provision has been decreased recently, as four children are in receipt of 30 hours funding, due to their parents working. The nursery has received intensive support and training from the Early Years Area SENCo and team; including involving partners in training sessions e.g. Speech and Language Therapy. The nursery has also been supporting children with transitions into Kilton Thorpe School.

A comprehensive training programme focused on supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within settings, is offered by the Early Years Area SENCO to childcare providers. All providers are supported to assess each child's needs individually and plan learning accordingly. This year three sessions were offered by Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and the

Early Years Area SENCo to develop a transition document. The sessions were accessed by a parent, childminder and staff from day nurseries and school nurseries, both special and mainstream school. The transition document will be used to support transitions for children starting full time and assessment nurseries for September 2020.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced on 1st April 2017. Early years settings can access this additional funding to support disabled children aged 3 and 4 years old who are attending their setting. The DAF payment is a lump sum, annual payment of £615.00 per eligible child, paid directly to the provider. This fund is not payable for children who are in their reception year.

The qualifying criteria to be eligible for the DAF was that the child must be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, 30 applications to the DAF were received from a range of providers and of them, 30 children qualified for support and the providers received a lump sum payment of £615.00. Applications were varied depending on the individual child's needs and ranged from; PECS start up pack, communication resources, sensory equipment, ear protectors.

The local authority is required to report DAF take up via the annual early years' census, next due in January 2022.

The Local Offer website is a focussed on-line directory of services available for children and young people aged 0-25 years old that have special educational needs and disabilities and is part of the over-arching People's Information Network (PIN) website.

The Redcar & Cleveland Local Offer is available at: www.peoplesinfont.net.org.uk

3.6 Quality of Provision

Childcare for children aged under 8 years old has to be registered on one of two Ofsted Registers: The Early Years Register (EYR); and the Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR).

The majority of registered childcare provision in Redcar & Cleveland has been judged by Ofsted as 'Good'.

Provision Type	Ofsted Inspection Judgement				
	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Met/No grade	Inadequate
Childminders	13	67	0	23	0
Day Nurseries (incl. playgroups)	2	21	0	4	0
Schools Delivering 2 Year Places	3	8	*1		

Please note: Ratings are as at April 2021. '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'. *

Although one school was judged by Ofsted as ‘Requires Improvement’ in November 2018, their Early Years Provision was judged to be ‘Good’ despite this overall grade.

The Early Years Education Team offer training courses to all childcare providers, including childminders. The programme of early years CPD is available to all childcare providers at the beginning of each academic year.

For those settings that are funded to provide early education places for two, three and four year old children, and received an Ofsted judgment of less than ‘Good’, it is mandatory that they engage with the Early Years Education Team. For settings judged as ‘Inadequate’, they are prohibited from providing any new placements prior to securing an improved outcome in a subsequent inspection. This is because the DfE are clear that the Local Authority should not fund places in poor quality settings. However, children already attending may continue if parents wish them to remain.

The Early Years Education Team works intensively in these settings to achieve the required improvement, offering support and challenge to any setting rated less than ‘Good’ by Ofsted in their inspection of registered provision.

The Continuous Improvement Programme (CIP) has been developed by the team, based on the Ofsted outcomes. This programme is used by the team with day nursery managers to produce a unique Focused Improvement Plan (FIP) for each setting. The FIP focuses on specific areas and enables childcare providers to set achievable objectives, timescales and outcomes. Childminders are trained in-house and supported with a pre-Ofsted visit and guidance to complete a reflective self-evaluation document prior to inspection.

A comprehensive business support programme is available to all childcare providers in the Borough, through our Early Year’s Sufficiency Advisor, who offers advice and guidance around sustainability, finance, marketing, staffing, policies and procedures.

3.7 Childcare Costs

The Families’ Information Service holds detailed charging information for all childcare providers. Establishing average charges for childcare is difficult due to inconsistent charging patterns across the sector; however, an average for each setting type has been calculated below (please note some figures have not changed since the Childcare Sufficiency Report in 2020):

Provision Type	Average Rate
Childminder*	£187.50 (per week full time)
Day Nursery	£166.17 (per week full time)
Pre School Playgroups	£7.00 (per hour)
After School Clubs	£11 (per session)
Breakfast Club	£1.78 (per session within school)
Breakfast Club	£2.96 (per session)
Holiday Clubs	£145.00 (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 £187.50, compared to £228. However, the average weekly gross pay in Redcar and Cleveland of £502.90 is £84.20 lower than the England average of £587.10 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>

3.8 Childcare Information, Advice and Guidance

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide information, advice and guidance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area, ensuring parents:

- are aware of early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds;
- understand that their child's 15 hours early education entitlement can be with a private, voluntary, independent provider (PVI) or school;
- understand that attending a school nursery does not guarantee admission to the school, therefore parents must apply for a school place if they want their child to *transfer* to the reception class;
- know how to find childcare and early education provision in their area; and
- know how to assess the quality of that provision.

In Redcar and Cleveland this duty is fulfilled by the Families' Information Service. As part of the service, an on-line childcare directory is maintained and made available to parents via the Peoples' Information Network (PIN) website, along with a free telephone advice line.

The Families' Information Service also provides a bespoke brokerage facility to match the needs of families with registered childminders. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the service received 66 childcare enquiries and processed 856 free 2 year childcare applications. We did see a decrease in childcare enquiries and applications in the past year but believe this to be due to the impact of Covid 19 and lockdowns in spring & summer terms 2020 and spring term in 2021, which may have influenced parent's decisions to send their children to childcare during a pandemic.

3.9 Parental Views (Demand for Childcare)

Parents in Redcar and Cleveland were invited to take part in a childcare survey that was live between June and July 2021 to ascertain their views about childcare provision. The information was gathered and analysed using a Survey Monkey questionnaire. Overall, 652 parents responded to the survey, this is an increase of 530 responses compared to 2020 when 122 parents took part and is also an increase on 2019. The increase could largely be attributed to the fact that we were able to link in with schools to help us promote the survey this year and that parents may like to give their views during this time. This year saw the parent survey being completed early in summer term, while all provisions were still open rather than last year when it was conducted at the end of summer term,

when we asked parents to consider their childcare needs for the Autumn term 2020. Out of 652 parents 44 were out of the area and 377 do not use childcare.

Of the 608 parents who completed the survey who lived in Redcar and Cleveland Council, the largest responses were from the Redcar area at 40% an increase from 36% last year, East Cleveland area 29% a decrease on last years 42% and interestingly in Greater Eston area, there was an increase to 30% from 11% last year.

The families who responded were answering the survey in relation to children of varying ages. The breakdown is listed below:

- 244 respondents live in the Redcar Area
- 180 respondents live in the East Cleveland area
- 184 respondents live in the Greater Eston area
- 44 responses were from parents who lived out of borough and utilised childcare within the Redcar and Cleveland area.

When asked if the childcare provision in Redcar and Cleveland is of a good quality, 92% said yes, an increase from 50% of parents who answered the question last year. This is further evidenced by Ofsted judgements during 2019/20, with 13 childminders judged as outstanding; 2 nurseries achieving an outstanding and the large majority of settings falling into the 'good' Ofsted grading category.

The most popular type of childcare used was private day nurseries 34%, schools 19% and childminders 17% but informal childcare also played a large role with Grandparents 20% and family and friends at 10%. However, some of the respondents were using two different types of childcare. The most popular type of childcare used in last year's survey was private day nurseries; this has not changed in 2021.

This could be due to the promotion of the extended entitlement for the 3&4 year olds of working parents, as the number of children taking this up has increased since its introduction in September 2017. Parents continue to find a more cost-effective way of using their funded hours and the number of parents accessing Tax Free childcare (see section 3.10 below) is also increasing; this further supports their childcare choices. The Families Information Service team direct parents to the Childcare Choices government website, to access the childcare calculator.

This enables parents to find out about the funding or combination of funding that is relevant to their family; utilising all relevant childcare support to enable them to work or engage in training.
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

There is a high percentage of parents (52%) who feel that childcare is affordable. However, 33% of those who completed the survey felt childcare was expensive.

3.10 Tax-Free childcare

On 21st April 2017, the Government introduced tax-free childcare for working parents with children under 11 (under 17 for disabled children). Parents can set up an on-line childcare account to pay

their childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay into their account, the Government adds £2 (up to a maximum of £2,000 per child, per year; £4,000 per child per year for a disabled child).
[Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The eligibility criteria for tax-free childcare is:

- Parents must work;
- Each of them must earn a certain amount over 3 months, this is at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week on average.
- Each parent must not have an income over £100,000 per year.

Work continues to promote tax free childcare to reduce costs, support parents to access childcare during school holidays and to provide wrap around care.

4. Supply of Childcare

4.1. Ofsted Registered Childcare

Data in relation to Ofsted registered childcare provision has been obtained from the Families' Information Service. The Families' Information Service is responsible for maintaining and updating the Local Authority's childcare database which is updated whenever Ofsted make changes to the registration status of providers, including newly registered, resigned, and inspected.

4.2. Childcare Provision in Redcar & Cleveland by Provision Type

The table below shows the various different types of Ofsted registered childcare provision across the borough, as obtained from the Families' Information Service in April 2021:

Provision Type	Number
Childminders	103
Day Nurseries	27
Pre School Playgroups	3
After School Clubs	23
Breakfast Clubs	43
Holiday Clubs/schemes	16
School 2 Year old Provisions	12
Total	227

4.3 Geographical Distribution of Childcare Provision

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

Provision Type	Greater Eston	Redcar Area	East Cleveland Area
Childminders	25	50	28
Day Nurseries	10	8	9
Pre School Playgroups	1	1	1
After School Clubs	10	6	7
Breakfast Clubs	18	12	13
Holiday Clubs/schemes	5	5	6
School 2 Year Old Provision	4	2	6
School 30 hour Provision	6	3	10

As at May 2021, twelve school-based 2 year old settings were operating from the following primary schools: St Peters, St Josephs, Whitecliffe, Lingdale, Handale, Hummersea, New Marske, Lakes, Grangetown, Normanby, South Bank and St Marys.

As at May 2021, 19 school-based 30 hour settings were operating from the following primary schools: St Peters, St Josephs, Whitecliffe, Lingdale, Handale, Hummersea, New Marske, Handale, Ormesby, St Paulinus, Nunthorpe, Skelton, Badger Hill, Wilton, John Batty, Caedmon, St Gabriels Galley Hill and St Benedicts.

4.4 Supply of 2 Year Old Funded Early Education Places

In order to meet the large increase in demand for 2 year old places following its introduction in 2013, a robust strategic plan was developed using demand data from The Department for Work and Pensions and local intelligence, to identify hot spot areas requiring further provision. In addition, support was provided to encourage established childcare settings to expand their existing provision to offer more places where possible. Following this planning and implementation strategy as at the end of the summer term 2021, there were 498 two year old places taken up in school and private nursery settings across the borough. In the future, childcare providers may need to consider increasing the number of free childcare places for 2 year olds in response to a potential increase in unemployment across the borough, as the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the economy and working population come to light.

Through consultation and business workshops, the childcare sector in Redcar & Cleveland has been encouraged to offer much more flexible provision, rather than the restricted 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions per week, term time only offer. Parents can now choose from a range of patterns including 2 x 7.5 hrs, 3 x 5 hours, 5 x 3 hours. Some providers also offer a stretched offer which allows children to take only 12 hours per week but attend for 48 weeks per year; enabling working parents to continue to receive their entitlement during school holidays.

One of the challenges for the local authority moving forward, is to ensure there is a sufficient supply of 3 and 4 year old places that are **flexible** enough to meet the demand of working parents requiring up to 30 hours per week. This is particularly challenging for Redcar and Cleveland given the high percentage of children who take up their nursery entitlement in schools who traditionally operate on a term time only basis, mornings or afternoons (not full day). In addition, the impact of COVID-19

on demand for these places for children of working parents, set against a context of increasing unemployment due to the pandemic, will need closely monitoring as this could potentially lead to some businesses closing.

We must ensure that all early years' places are in locations that meet parent's needs. As 30-hours childcare has become more embedded and new parents become eligible for the early years' entitlements, demand will change; requiring the LA to continually monitor take-up and offer support to providers to understand the changes, potential shifts in the market and how they can respond to them in a timely way.

5. COVID-19 and its impact on the childcare market

The worldwide pandemic caused by COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our daily life and lockdown restrictions announced by the UK government in March 2020 to try and control the spread of the virus, placed unprecedented pressure on local school nurseries and childcare providers. On 23rd March 2020, all schools and early years settings were instructed to close with immediate effect to all children except those of critical workers and vulnerable children who had an Education, Health and Care plan or a social worker. All non-essential workers were also ordered to stop going out to work and remain at home (working from home wherever possible). As the majority of day nurseries and childminders rely on a mixed income from early years places funded by the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for statutory 2, 3 and 4 year old places, alongside funding from private customers who go to work and need to pay for childcare whilst they are at work, this was a massive blow to the private sector. In 2021 the announcement was that schools should close from 5th January, however nurseries and childminders to remain open for younger children.

There was a lot of concern and anxiety from childcare providers and schools in the immediate aftermath of this announcement and the Families' Information Service and Early Years Quality team did their best to advise and support them by circulating guidance and links to support, such as business grants available and the government's job retention scheme (furlough). Councils were instructed to continue to pay the early years place funding from the DSG to childcare providers and school nurseries at the same level that they were expecting; so providers were asked to submit a head-count based on the children that should have been attending in the Spring term if everything had been 'normal' and were paid on that basis. Due to schools closing on 5th January 2021, this meant some of the nurseries within school closed too or only opened for key workers (the list of key workers became more extensive in 2021 than in the previous lockdown, this had more impact on working parents) or vulnerable children. This had an impact on the working parents to find alternative childcare arrangements so they could continue working, this resulted in children who were eligible for 30 hours funding, instead of having 15 hours at school nursery then 15 hours with PVI or CM, they then started attending their full 30 hours at PVIs or CMs where they were claiming their 30hours due to school nurseries not being available. Funding was paid to the CM or PVI who had these children which meant the schools did not receive the universal funding.

The government also announced that eligibility criteria for 2 year olds would be relaxed to include all children of that age open to social care, regardless of their parents working or income status (usually they have to be claiming certain benefits). This was to encourage our most vulnerable children to attend childcare. The FIS team worked with Social Care to identify any 2 year olds who were open to social care during this period. Social workers were asked to encourage the parents to apply and register their children with a childcare provider if they were not registered already. However, understandably, a lot of parents were reluctant to send their children to childcare settings due to

concerns about the risks about virus transmission in their families and to older, or unwell relatives who may have been shielding.

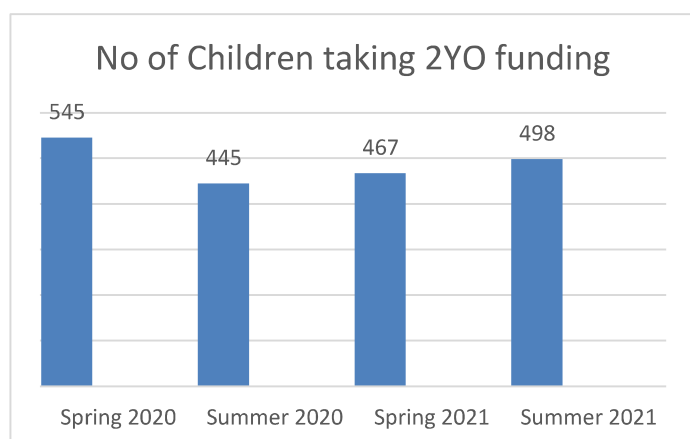
Government issued further guidance that from 8th March that all schools could now open. All school nurseries then opened for children to return. Schools were advised to work in bubbles so some parents decided to keep their child at one setting which would be CM or PVI, this was to avoid any unnecessary movement. Funding was allocated to the PVI and CM who had offered the childcare while the schools were closed.

5.1 Demand for childcare during January – March 2021

From April 2020, the DfE required the LA to complete and return a weekly childcare survey to capture the effect of the pandemic on the early years sector and on children’s attendance. All childcare providers were encouraged by the FIS and Early Years Quality team to complete a weekly on-line questionnaire that was collated and submitted via a secure portal to the DfE. During this time the providers, schools and CMs continually submitted data to be uploaded.

Since lockdown restriction were lifted in March 2021 the responses from providers have decreased when the childcare survey changed to fortnightly, this could be due to the pressures that affected the childcare provisions on returning after lockdown. This does not give a true reflection on attendance at all settings if the providers, schools do not complete the returns. DfE were still requesting for the surveys to be completed on a fortnightly basis as of May 2021. DfE have now requested that the surveys start again in autumn term but monthly starting in September.

We know that there has been a slight increase in the take-up of free 2 year old places in the summer term of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. However, the first lockdown took place in Spring & Summer 2020 and the lockdown in 2021 only took place in spring term 2021. In July 2021, there were 498 two year old places taken up in school and private nursery settings across the borough which was 89% of the total number of eligible children according to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). This was significantly more than the number taken up at the same time in 2020, when two year old places were occupied, which was 73% of the number of eligible children.



5.2 Support from the Local Authority for childcare providers during the pandemic

Steps the Local Authority has taken has taken to support childcare providers through the pandemic, up until Spring 2021, includes:

- Information and advice for providers, linking to DfE guidance and financial support (such as the Job Retention Scheme, business grants and business rates holidays).
- Business and financial support given, including signposting to business support and/or providing new types of business support and advice.
- Brokering childcare places through our Families' Information Service for the children of keyworkers and supporting collaborative working arrangements to meet new or changing childcare demand.
- Ensuring we continue to pay early years funding fully until the end of the spring term, regardless of how many children actually attended and whether or not the setting was open, closed or offering partial services.

A key part of the support was around business advice including:

- Option to furlough staff not required to deliver services, and who are not covered by DSG early years funding, through the Job Retention Scheme, this will cease on 31 September 2021. NB Where employers received public funding for staff costs (which includes early years funding), and that funding continued, employers were expected to use that money to continue to pay staff in the usual fashion – and correspondingly not furlough them.
- Accounting for the 12 months business rates holiday (2020-2021) in the setting's business plan and cashflow.
- Self-employed workers, i.e. childminders who had lost income could be invited by HMRC to apply for the Self-employment Income Support Scheme. This allows for a taxable grant worth 80% of trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for three months. This scheme was extended to April 2021.

Business Support Grants - Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) 2021 **Closing date**

LRSB (Closed) and LRSB (Open)	Period spent in Tiers 3 and 4 in December and early January	31st March 2021
LRSB (Closed Addendum)	42-day period beginning 5 January 2021	31st March 2021
Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment	One-off grant supports businesses that have been required to close due to the national lockdown that began on 5 January 2021	31st March 2021
LRSB (Closed Addendum)	44-day period beginning 16th February	31st May 2021

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)		
Additional Restrictions Grant – Scheme 1	Distributed to eligible businesses which have been severely impacted during periods of national lockdown and local restrictions between 5 November 2020 and 31 March 2021. Only those not eligible for LRSG can apply.	31st March 2021
Additional Restrictions Grant – Scheme 2	A one-off payment to eligible Redcar and Cleveland businesses which have been significantly impacted during periods of national lockdown and local restrictions between 5 November 2020 and 31 March 2021 but have not previously claimed LRSG Closed or Addition Restrictions Grant Scheme 1.	30th April 2021
Business Start-Up Acceleration Grant Pilot	Designed to support start-up businesses in any sector, including those which have started very recently to become sustainable and accelerate their growth following the coronavirus pandemic.	30th June 2021

<https://redcarcleveland.co.uk/business/covid-19-business-finance-support/>

5.3 Going forward

The main impact from January to March 2021 was the schools' closure as mentioned, this impacted where childcare was taken to meet parental needs. During summer term when schools opened fully for all there was some movement of childcare between PVIs, Childminders and schools but this was minimal to the movement within the Spring Term. The main impact is school closures as we have seen throughout the pandemic which then has an impact on early years childcare across Redcar and Cleveland.

6. Childcare Occupancy Audit and Data Analysis

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.

To understand the extent and capacity of all provision within the borough, an occupancy audit was undertaken by the Families' Information Service in June 2021, covering the holiday week of 31st May-4th June and the term time week of 10th – 14th June 2021. Usually this would take place during the Easter holidays and the week after but due to the pandemic and movement of children in Spring term it was more beneficial to gain a better picture of the early years sufficiency when all provisions are fully open. It was hoped that this would give us a truer reflect of the increase in childcare when COVID restrictions are improving.

Therefore, information regarding the occupancy of holiday childcare places was ascertained by requesting details of the number of children who were in childcare for the period of 31st May-4th June, 2021 during half term holiday. The week of 10th – 14th June, 2021 was selected to reflect the number of children in childcare provision during a term-time working week.

Delivery of early years' education and childcare provision, including breakfast, after-school and holiday provision, is through a mixed market of private and voluntary providers, including pre-school playgroups, day nurseries, childminders and schools. In order to establish robust and reliable results, it was fundamental that all providers were included within the audit process.

A questionnaire was developed to ascertain the capacity of the provision and the take-up of places by age of child. Responses were collated for analysis.

The audit examined each of the three localities as a distinct geographical area and provides an analysis of supply and demand in order to highlight any potential gaps in the local childcare market, such as:

- geographical gaps: areas where there may be a potential shortage of childcare provision;
- income gaps: a shortage of affordable childcare;
- specific needs gaps: a shortage of childcare for disabled children or children with other specific needs;
- time gaps: a shortage of childcare when it is required by parents/carers;
- age gaps: a shortage of age appropriate care; and
- type gaps: a shortage in a type of childcare for which parents/carers may be expressing a preference.

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.

In assessing occupancy, the number of children who were taking a place each day during the specified week were totalled, then divided by 5 (to reflect a week). This gave a definitive figure of available places, occupied places and spare places that were used in the analysis.

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 2020 and March 2021 (66), and the pricing policies within settings as well as their Ofsted judgements.

Response rates from childcare providers increased this year, with a total of 144 providers (including schools) completing the occupancy survey compared to 113 last year. This included all our 27 private day nurseries (100% response) and 76 of our 100 Ofsted registered and actively working childminders (76% response). Combined, the private childcare sector response rate was therefore still 80% excluding the schools. There was an increase in the response from schools this year with 41 out of 44 schools completing the survey which is a 93% response rate compared to 47% in 2020.

Due to the response rate across 2020 and 2021 and the necessary change to the time of year the audits were conducted, it is difficult to make comparisons between 2021 and previous years using the data purely in terms of the occupancy rates and number of spare childcare places available across the three locality areas of the borough. However, the data provided for 2021 against 2020 has increased so the figures will reflect on this.

6.1 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 79%. The data shows there were a total of 25 spare pre-school aged places available to children amongst registered childminders, compared to 84 spare places available at the time of the 2020 childcare occupancy audit. The Greater Eston area has the least number of registered childminders working in the borough, as only 24% of the total population of childminders are based here. Despite the number of childminders in the area reducing in the current year from 25 (2020) to 24 (2021), there are still sufficient spare places available for pre-school aged children than last year, presumably reflecting less demand.

All day nurseries in the Greater Eston area, remained open during lockdown in Spring 2021. All of the 10 day nurseries in the area responded to the survey (100% response rate). They have a total of 242 spare pre-school places available which demonstrates there is sufficient childcare places should demand increase.

All 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 significantly increased from last year to 265 (2021) compared to 103 (2020) breakfast club places taken and 120 (2021) compared to 35 (2020) after school club places taken; this is less than 2019 for breakfast clubs but similar to afterschool clubs, this could be due to keeping in bubbles within school for breakfast, compared to 472 breakfast and 123 after school club places in 2019. This corresponds with information received from some schools that they are not offering all places for children due to the pressures of trying to maintain a core school offer with reduced staffing and concerns about mixing children from different school year bubbles in these clubs.

The childcare provision in the Greater Eston area is in the right area to meet people's needs as 88% of parents surveyed felt that childcare was in the right location to meet their needs. Replies from the parents' survey;

“All child care is expensive one day is the same cost as a days wage. The 3 choices I have of private childcare that do school drop offs are too far away and to be honest not up to my expectations. I send child to a private nursery in Guisborough as this was the best option. I do school runs in my lunch hour.”

“Child care providers work don't cover after 6pm unless you are happy paying an large fee.” Another parent said

“Couldn't find many local childminders”

44 out of 59 (75%) parents who answered yes do you have enough choice and 44 out of 61 (72%) said it covers their working hours.

The parental survey also highlighted that 17 out of the 20 parents who answered the question that childcare was not affordable which is 85% a massive increase on last years 23% of parents in the Greater Eston area felt that childcare was too expensive.

Parents comments:

The cost is ridiculous, cheaper options like school breakfast club start too late
Because the nursery shuts at 6pm and I have to get someone else to get my child and mind him until I finish work

My child has been diagnosed with ASD and only allocated 15 hours a week

Being working parents (NHS) which includes long shifts, meaning we don't have childcare after 6 when some days we might not finish til 7/8. For affordability it's difficult as my 4 year old is pre school her daily fees to attend the same nursery as my 5 year old (same room, same hours) is double. I also find there is very little support to working familys when it comes to childcare costs.

I work early start before 7 and there isn't childcare or private nurseries that provide for shift workers. *“30 hours” ‘free’ “is incredibly expensive”.*

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. In addition, should demand increase further, day nurseries could potentially employ more staff to accommodate them.

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.

6.2 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 Germaines
- Wheatlands

The data demonstrates that although this area has the highest number of registered childminders (47% of the total boroughwide), 3 childminders have stopped providing childcare in the last 12 months. 75% which is 35 out of the 47 childminders in this area completed the forms.

There are a total of 129 spare pre-school aged places available to children in this area amongst registered childminders compared to 202 spare places available at the time of the 2019 audit. Even though there are fewer spaces available this year, there is still significant spare capacity within the childminding community in the Redcar area to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old.

There are 8 day nurseries in the Redcar area and 100% of them responded to the occupancy survey this year. In total, there were 255 (2021) spare pre-school aged places available through these day nurseries compared to only 261 spare places in April 2019. The figures show that 2021 is similar to that of 2019, before COVID, so it seems that day nurseries are operating at roughly the same occupancy and there is still some capacity to take additional children.

All the 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 significantly increased since last year with 167 breakfast club places taken in 2021 compared to 97 in 2020; 93 after school club places were taken in 2021 compared to 9 in 2020. This is still a decrease on numbers in 2019 when 273 breakfast club and 133 after school club places were taken. Some schools commented that they were still limiting numbers due to being in bubbles, so this is reflected in the figures, however as you can see numbers have increased since 2020 so this is a great improvement on last year.

The parent survey confirmed that 88% - 76 out of 86 of parents answered that the childcare was in the right location in the Redcar area. However, 47% - 40 out of 86 parents who replied said the cost of childcare in Redcar was not affordable.

Parents comments from the survey include:

"Only certain places do pick ups from my school, so there is no choice. Thankfully I love our provider. I don't think childcare is affordable full stop"

"I don't think it is affordable because it's £43 a day, there's not much point of working. Luckily I have just had a baby so don't need childcare at times. But working and having 2 children I may as well give up work.."

"little choice for older children or holiday care"

“The price of child care when on low wage can make it hard to afford”

“£300 per month for after school care is expensive. I think more affordable options should be available for working parents such as an in school after school provision like in other primaries “

The Families’ Information Service has not received feedback in terms of unmet need for any aspect of childcare in the Redcar area.

6.3 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, 23 of the 27 registered childminders responded to the audit, this equates to 23% of the total active childminders in the borough at this time.

These childminders told us that they only had 22 spare pre-school places this year compared to 37 in 2020, this is 41% less than last year. This means there is only very limited spare capacity within the childminding community to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old.

There are 9 private day nurseries in the East Cleveland area. All day nurseries responded to the occupancy survey this year. In total, there were 196 spare pre-school aged places available through private day nurseries in Summer 2021 compared to 338 in autumn 2020 (42% fewer this year). In addition, 441 pre-school places were occupied in July 2021 compared to 244 pre-school aged places were occupied in September 2020 which is a 45% increase.

There were 14 of the 15 primary schools in East Cleveland responded to the occupancy audit. However, even taking this into account, the number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs is still significantly low with only 99 (2021) breakfast club places taken compared to 103 in 2020. This is a decrease of 4% on last year. In July 2021 53 after school club places were taken; compared to 16 in 2020, this shows an increase of 70%. However, in 2019, 326 breakfast and 100 after school club places were taken. Overall, this is a 22% increase in children attending before and after school club provision in the East Cleveland area between 2020 and 2021 but still a 65% decrease in numbers attending since 2019

East Cleveland is a rural area, although the data shows there is capacity amongst day nurseries, there is still a sufficiency concern in terms of choice across some specific towns and villages in the area, with the reduction in the number of childminder places available generally across the locality. This is a major concern in Saltburn specifically, where there is currently only one childminder working. One childminder is shielding for health reasons and 1 childminder is on maternity leave who will hopefully return to childminding shortly. There is currently one childminder proposed waiting to be registered who lives in Saltburn. There is also only one day nursery provision in Saltburn which is a very affluent town with many working households. 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.

We asked parents if childcare was in the right area and 21 out of 26 who replied said it was in right area. However when asked if affordable 29 out of 63 (46%) said it wasn't and 34 out of 63 (54%) said it was affordable.

“Guisborough Montessori is outstanding quality & puts needs of child first. Other providers aren't anywhere near this level. The government doesn't give enough funding to centres for them to run properly. The 30hrs free child care has made this worse “

“There is not enough childcare providers in saltburn all of them are full”

“Very costly for more than one child. Even free hours only covers term time which means summer holidays (which I have to work) , I am barely working for a profit.”

“Very expensive, not much choice of childcare for my child near my area that have space, only full days or half days. Not flexible”

“I work full time and can't afford child care, I have never been able to get any help, I have to rely on my 70 year old father to take care of my child. I also need child care from 6.30am and no where offers child care that early.”

“Before covid I was able to get a package deal on childcare requirements and this no longer happens therefore it has become expensive. Also a issue is there is very limited flexibility. If you book in spaces and can not attend you still have to pay, I appreciate that staff will be scheduled for that day etc.”

The Families' Information Service are aware of the sufficiency concerns in Saltburn and there have already been several childminder enquiries where searches have had to be widened to include childminders living outside of Saltburn who would be willing to pick up and drop off outside of their own community; or where day nurseries were offered instead. We are actively childminder training to attract more childminders and we are currently support two through the application process.

6.5 Conclusions

- The results of the childcare occupancy audit demonstrate that overall there are still sufficient childcare places across the Borough, with a significant decrease in the number of spare childcare places for 0-4 year olds available across the borough compared to in 2020. However, the number of spare places in the childminder market of East Cleveland has significantly

reduced by 42%. This may cause problems for parents who would prefer a childminder in this locality and specifically in Saltburn, where there is currently only one active childminder, however 2 more childminders in Saltburn should be returning to childminding in the near future.

- The number of two-year-old children registered at settings has decreased this year, 551 Spring 2020 compared to 530 Spring 2021. This is likely to be due to lack of parental confidence and fears of children contracting the virus during lockdown in Spring term 2021 and the falling birth rate.
- The number of universal 3 and 4 year olds attending settings across the Borough has slightly increased in 2021 to 231 children attending settings compared to 170 in 2020. This will be checked again at the time of the annual early year's census in Jan 2022.
- The number of children accessing the 30 hours extended entitlement for working parents has increased this year with 417 children using a funded place in 2021 compared to 253 in 2020 which is a 61% increase.
- The number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs in schools has increased across the Borough by 47% in 2021 compared to 2020. In the Greater Eston area, there was only a 36% increase compared to 78% increase in East Cleveland.
- 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, except for East Cleveland, where there has been a reduction in the availability of childminders which is likely to impact on specific towns and villages in the area.
- 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 2021, 77% of the 103 registered childminders were rated 'good' or 'outstanding'; and 23 of the 27 day nurseries were good or outstanding. No settings required improvement; this is a positive reflection of the support given to these settings by the Local Authority's Quality Improvement Team.
- 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 atypical working patterns. 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, whilst 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.

7. Summary Statement

Based on the findings of the occupancy audit undertaken in June 2021, and considering other available evidence, we are able to conclude that overall the local authority is currently meeting its childcare sufficiency duty as far as is reasonably practicable. However, the impact of COVID-19 has meant there has been significant changes to the childcare market in 2021, although demand for pre-school aged places has increased slightly compared to 2020 there is still less demand than in 2019 (pre Covid). There are also fewer spare places available than in 2020 but this is probably due to more children taking up childcare than last year.

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 this year. However, the number of 3 and 4 year olds taking up extended entitlement places for children of working parents has increased by 61% this year, perhaps due to more parents being classified as keyworkers and returning to work. The ramifications of Covid 19 on the sector are yet to be fully realised and the childcare market should be closely monitored.

It is still of paramount importance that the Local Authority is able to ensure affordable, flexible 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.

8. Future challenges

The impact of COVID-19 on the working age population and, in turn on the local childcare market, will need to be closely monitoring over the next few months. This also needs considering within the context of a predicted decline in the child population. The FIS Team, Early Years Sufficiency Advisor and Early Years Quality Team are best placed to keep a watchful eye on the number of childcare providers, including childminders, resigning and registering over the coming months and will be proactive in terms of any sufficiency issues raised by parents.

We will liaise with childcare settings to ensure they are making the best use of the government financial support available to them and offer them business support to try and remain sustainable. This will help support jobs in the sector and break through some of the misinformation being shared, and help providers navigate recent changes and uncertainty with the support available.

Schools are gradually re-opening breakfast and after school clubs to support working parents with their wrap-around childcare needs. However, there are still fewer clubs running than before 2020 so schools will need to be encouraged to re-open the clubs when it is safe and they have the capacity to do so.

The take-up of 2-year-old places for the most disadvantaged children will need carefully monitoring over the next academic year, as we know that this has significantly decreased, even though the number of low-income or unemployed parents is likely to increase due to COVID-19. We will 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. We will support childcare providers to encourage parents/carers to regain confidence in the provision, through clear messages about the

measures they have in place to mitigate the risks of the virus transmission through enhanced cleaning regimes etc.

We will 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 and tax-free childcare.

Childcare and early years provision needs to be considered when new housing is planned, to ensure any new families moving into the area can access childcare and early years provision to meet their needs.

9. ACTION PLAN

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Rebuild parental confidence in the ability of the childcare market to keep children safe during the pandemic by promoting childcare and working with agencies who work directly with families.	Sept 2022	Number of children accessing pre-school aged places across the sector increases from levels at Sept 2021.	More children access high quality early years provision to support their early learning and development and prepare them for school.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Health Visiting Service Manager Family Hubs Manager
Promote extended hours of entitlement for 3&4 year olds to ensure working parents are informed and able to access this provision.	September 2022	Number of children accessing extended 3 and 4 year old entitlement increases (30 hours) from levels at September 2021.	More working parents are supported by this childcare initiative to provide more affordable childcare.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant
Closely monitor resignations of childminders across the borough and encourage new childminders to register, particularly in East Cleveland.	September 2022	Monthly management information available on Childminder turn-over and availability. Increase in registered childminders in East Cleveland.	Sufficient childminders across the borough and in East Cleveland.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant Early Years Quality Team

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 2022	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 2022	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 2021.	April 2022	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.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Complete Childcare Sufficiency (CS) Report update for 2022.	December 2022	CS 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

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Work with those childcare providers that are identified by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement.'	As required	Improved Ofsted inspection outcomes.	Improved social, emotional and educational outcomes for children who are ready to start school.	Early Years Quality Team
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 2022	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 Monica Wheater supported by Amie Metcalfe.
Promote Free Childcare places for 2-year olds before the start of each term.	Termly	Increased take up of Free Childcare places for 2-year olds from levels at September 2021.	Improved outcomes and transitions into education for the most disadvantaged early years children.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Officer Families Information Service Team

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Support childcare providers to remain sustainable after COVID-19 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 Quality Team

Appendix 1 Results of Occupancy Audit Data by Area

Redcar Area Childcare Provision

**Redcar Area Childcare Provision
Childminders**

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		3-4 Years universal		3-4 Years extended		3 – 4 Years Holiday		5-7 Years		8-11 Years		12-14 Years		15-17 Years (Disabled Only)	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM		
Available Places	25	23	33	30	23	20	47	49	22	22	14	14	8	8	0	0	0	0
Occupied Places	10	8	19	16	7	4	28	30	8	8	5	5	4	4	0	0	0	0
Spare Places	15	15	14	14	16	16	19	19	14	14	9	9	4	4	0	0	0	0

Daycare Provision (including day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions and pre-school playgroups)

Redcar Area Childcare Provision

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		3-4 Years universal		3-4 Years extended		3-4 Years Holiday		5-7 Years Holiday		8-11 Years Holiday		12-14 Years Holiday		15-17 Years Holiday (Disabled Only)	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Available Places	44	47	89	76	71	63	78	78	37	37	27	27	21	21	0	0	0	0
Occupied Places	29	30	54	38	27	23	42	47	25	23	12	12	6	6	0	0	0	0
Spare Places	15	17	35	38	44	40	36	31	12	14	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0

School Provision

Redcar Area Childcare Provision

	Breakfast Places	After-school Places	Breakfast Places	After-school Places	Breakfast Places	After-school Places
	3-4 years	3-4 years	5 – 10 years	5 – 10 years	8-11 years	8-11 years
Occupied Places	3	1	71	31	93	38

Holiday Provision (Across all childcare types)

Available Places	289
Occupied Places	141
Spare places	148

East Cleveland Area Childcare Provision

**East Cleveland Area Childcare Provision
Childminders**

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		3-4 Years universal		3-4 Years extended		3 – 4 Years Holiday		5-7 Years Holiday		8-11 Years Holiday		12-14 Years Holiday		15-17 Years Holiday (Disabled Only)	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Available Places	14	14	17	16	8	5	18	17	13	13	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Occupied Places	11	11	14	14	5	3	15	14	10	10	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
Spare Places	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0

**Daycare Provision (including day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions and pre-school playgroups)
East Cleveland Area Childcare Provision**

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		3-4 Years universal		3-4 Years extended		3-4 Years Holiday		5-7 Years Holiday		8-11 Years Holiday		12-14 Years Holiday		15-17 Years Holiday (Disabled Only)	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Available Places	60	60	88	82	52	49	72	87	68	67	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occupied Places	35	35	65	55	33	20	47	64	31	31	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spare Places	25	25	23	27	19	29	25	23	37	36	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0