

Nottingham City Council

Childcare Sufficiency Summary Report Card

Summer 2021

Introduction

Childcare Sufficiency: Local Authority responsibility

Sufficient, accessible and high quality childcare is an essential factor to promoting school readiness; widening access to employment and study for parents; as well as maximising opportunities for families to benefit from the economic, social and health benefits of employment.

The Childcare Act 2006 (updated 2016) places a duty on all Local Authorities to secure free provision for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year-olds and ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents. Whilst the Local Authority is not responsible for providing childcare itself, it is responsible for managing the market to ensure that these duties are met.

Monitoring Childcare Sufficiency

Nottingham City Council publishes a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report on a three yearly cycle, considering demand, supply and accessibility in order to identify any gaps in sufficiency. This is followed by bi annual refreshes of the data. The full CSA is an in-depth ward level review that includes a survey of both parents and providers.

Ongoing childcare monitoring data is available from the Early Years Profile on Nottingham Insight. This is a set of ward level profiles refreshed bi-annually to reflect current eligibility, places and participation in full-time childcare by age group. The profile also includes population and health data to provide a more complete view of the Early Years age group.

Methodology

As this is a summary report, only childcare providers and schools in Nottingham were consulted as part of the summer term 2021 CSA using online surveys. The views and feedback from parents and employers were collated and reported on in the autumn term 2020 CSA. Ofsted statistics and local intelligence, including Early Years Headcount data, form the content of this report and help draw conclusions on childcare sufficiency.

Please Note: Information contained within this report relates to data collated during the summer term 2021. The impact of the pandemic on childcare in general continues to emerge and will do so for many months to come. Situations can change rapidly therefore we acknowledge that some of the information within this report may already have changed and be outdated. The Local Authority will be aware of such changes and will ensure that current data is used at all times when planning sufficiency intervention.

Key Findings and Executive Summary

Childcare Sufficiency: current context

Sufficient, accessible and high quality childcare is significant in promoting school readiness; widening access to employment and study for parents; as well as maximising opportunities for families to benefit from the economic, social and health benefits of employment.

The Local Authority's statutory duty around childcare sufficiency, as detailed in The Childcare Act (2006) remains unchanged. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the childcare sector and it has never been more important to assess sufficiency. The pandemic has made supply and demand of the childcare market difficult to predict. It continues to be an ever changing picture for the sector as restrictions lift and the full effect of the past 18 months start to emerge. Business and employment play a significant role in childcare sufficiency. Some businesses have fared better throughout the pandemic than others and it is predicted that for some sectors, pre-pandemic business levels will not fully recover until at least 2022. Retail and hospitality are among the primary employers of Nottingham citizens and those worse hit by the pandemic. This will need to be considered in the context of sufficiency as we consider demand for childcare services in the coming months. Current demand may not be adequate to keep some childcare business operational however; these business may be needed as the economy recovers and employment rises.

What are the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments telling us?

The quality of childcare remains high in Nottingham with 99% of Day Nurseries and Pre-schools and 95% of Childminders in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Based upon the current return there are sufficient childcare places across all age groups. This is based on the number of vacancies which currently exist. We have received no indication that parents are, on the whole, unable to secure childcare at their preferred or a local provider.

There has been a small decrease in the overall number of childcare places in the city compared to the autumn term 2020 however, this decrease is significantly lower than the national picture. Overall, the uptake of childcare places across the city has increased slightly compared to autumn term 2020. Uptake of childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds has increased the most and the only decrease has been in the after school childcare provision. There are variances in the age ranges and across wards which means further detailed analysis of the data will be necessary in order to build a clearer picture over any emerging trends over the next few months.

As detailed further on in this report, one of our main concerns is around the sufficiency of out of school provision in the coming months. This is a concern nationally as well as locally. Whilst we are currently seeing sufficiency of places, demand is dropping. Further decline in demand may see some provision becoming unsustainable with potential closures. As the reasons for this are emerging and could be temporary, we need not be complacent of the risk of closure (deeming it natural wastage due to lack of demand), as the demand may increase at any point as employment rises, parents return to places of work (following temporary working from home arrangements) and infection rates fall.

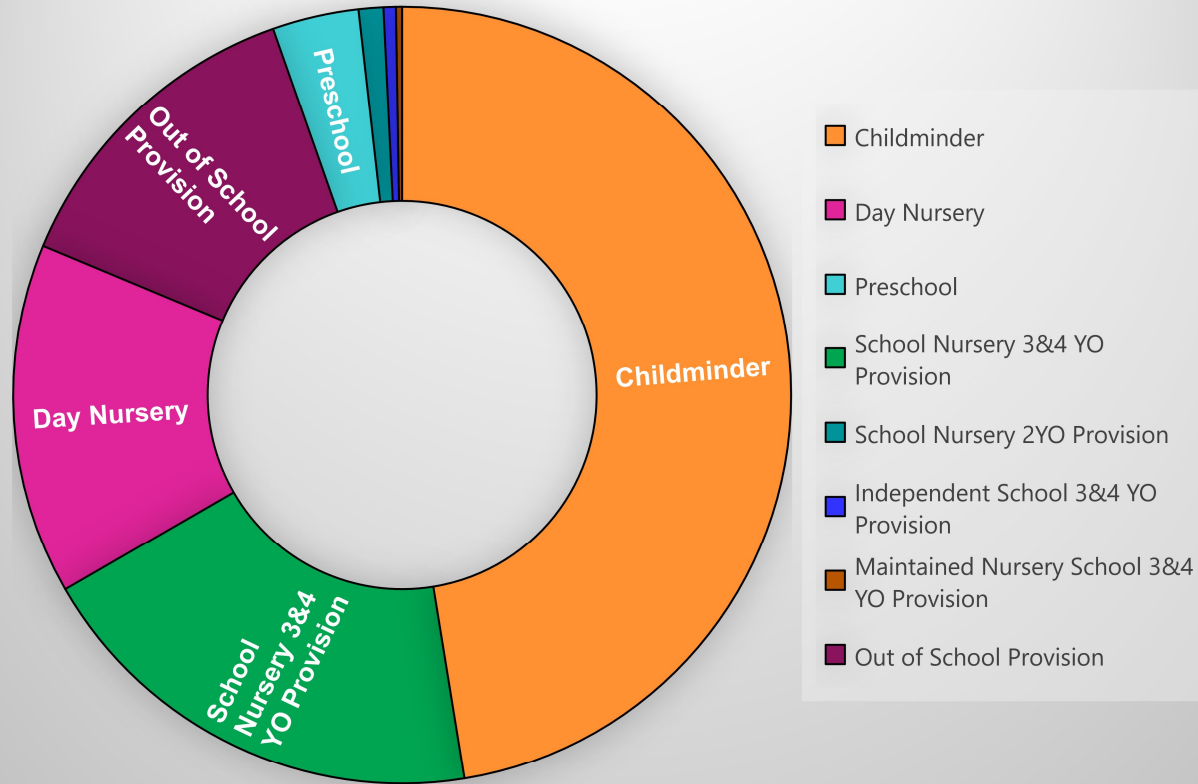
We continue to monitor and support early years and childcare provision during these challenging times. Ofsted has resumed their graded inspections and the new Early Years Foundation Stage will be launched in September – so there is a lot for providers to be thinking about along with managing their businesses and the continuing effects of the pandemic.

Childcare Sufficiency Report

The following Report is the summer term 2021 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which covers an overview of quality of provision, supply, participation and vacancy information broken down into age groups.

All queries should be directed to Catherine Smith, Early Years Programmes Manager, at: catherine.smith@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Overview of childcare services in Nottingham



In Nottingham there are a total of 385 registered early years and childcare providers. This includes childminders, day nurseries, preschools and school nurseries. This data is based on information held within the Council's [ASKLiON](#) website, which is maintained by the FIS Team ([Families Information Service](#))

Out of 385 registered providers and primary schools in Nottingham, a total of 231 (60%) responded to the Early Years Provider Survey . Much of the data within this report is based upon this survey. We must therefore exercise a degree of caution when scrutinising the data within this report due to missing data from 45% of the childminder sector and 16% of city schools.

Childminders	178
Day Nurseries	57
Preschools	14
School Nurseries 3&4 YO Provision	75
School Nurseries 2 YO Provision	4
Independent Schools 3&4 YO Provision	2
Maintained Nursery School 3&4 YO Provision	1
Out of school provision	54

Ofsted inspection and quality of childcare (sourced from local Ofsted data and Childminder Agency data)

Ofsted inspection grades as of 27.07.2021	Outstanding	Good	Met	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Not Met	Newly Registered	Total	Proportion Good/Outstanding/New
Childminder	5	95	27	3	0	5	28	163	95%
Day Nursery/Preschool	3	55	0	0	1	0	13	72	99%
School	10	56	0	6	1	0	2	75	91%

98% of funded 2 year-olds accessed early years provision in settings graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted (Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: January 2021) . 91% of 3 and 4 year-olds accessed early years provision in settings graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted (Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: January 2021)

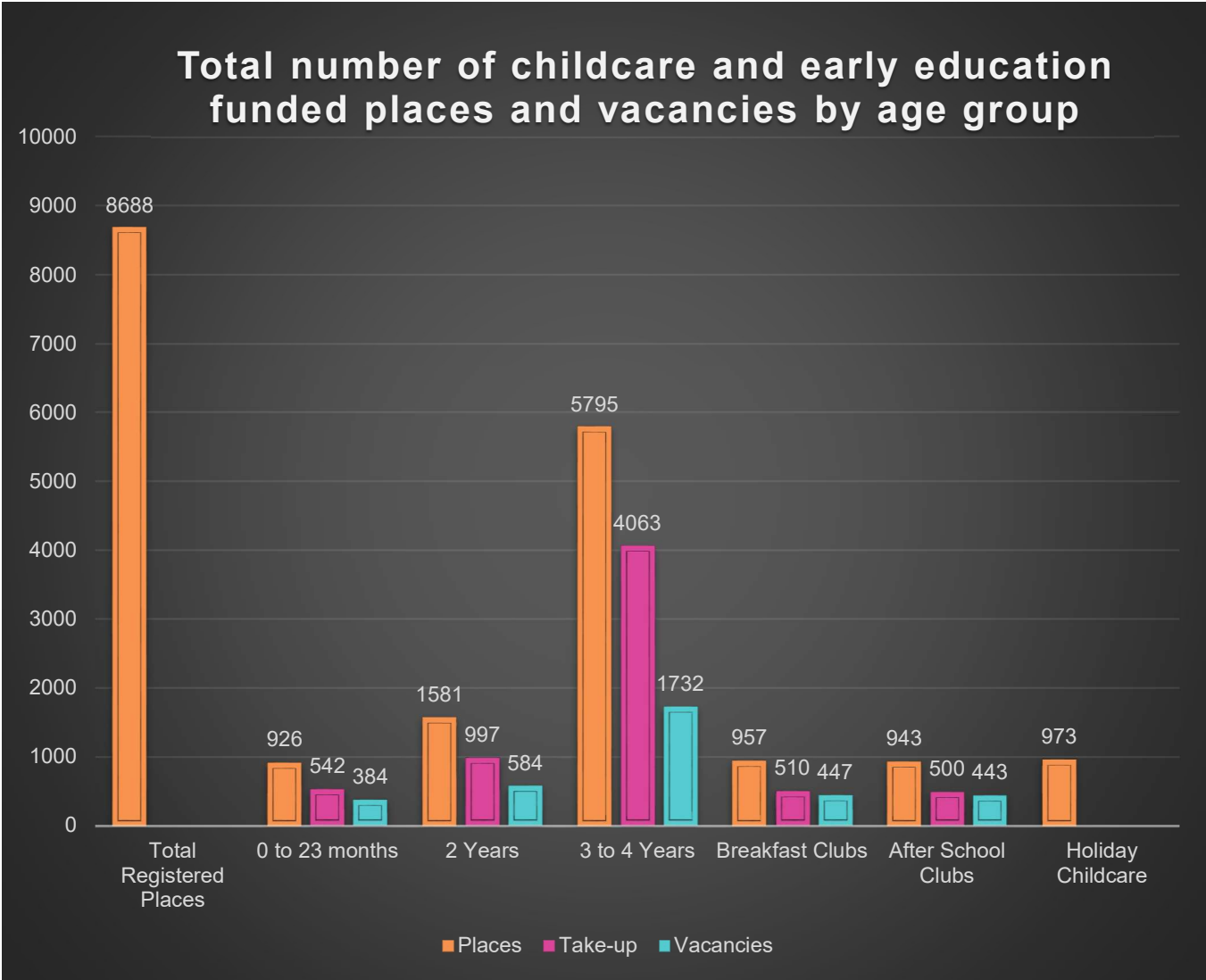
Current context – Ofsted Inspection Framework (EIF)

Ofsted suspended routine Early Years inspections in March 2020 due to the pandemic. On-site EIF inspections of registered early years providers recommenced on the 4th May 2021. Ofsted are prioritising providers:

- Judged less than good at their last inspection
- That registered recently but have not been inspected
- Whose first inspection is overdue
- That were not inspected in the last inspection cycle due to the pause in routine inspection
- Ofsted will continue to carry out urgent inspections if they have significant concerns about a provider.

Once Ofsted return to routine graded inspections, all early years providers will be inspected in a 6-year window from the date of their last inspection. Some arrangements will not change. Ofsted will still aim to inspect all new childcare providers within 30 months of registration. Childcare providers judged to require improvement will be inspected within the year and inadequate childcare provision will be inspected within 6 months. If there are concerns about any childcare provider, Ofsted can use its regulatory powers between inspections and bring forward an inspection following a risk assessment.

Supply of childcare places *(taken from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey summer 2021)*
























SUMMARY

Citywide:

- On average 1 childcare place for every 6 children
- 36% of childcare places are currently vacant (this figure does not include holiday care provision).
- 77% of schools are not currently offering breakfast club provision.

Birth to two year old places and uptake (sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey summer 2021)

		A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2020 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (0 to 2 yrs.)	Number of registered childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	731	20	8	40%	49%	
Basford	492	105	69	66%	47%	
Berridge	538	32	8	25%	27%	
Bestwood	592	16	9	56%	34%	
Bilborough	471	24	9	38%	54%	
Bulwell	562	25	12	48%	44%	
Bulwell Forest	345	51	28	55%	39%	
Castle	128	36	27	75%	75%	
Clifton East	430	37	22	59%	29%	
Clifton West	277	14	6	43%	60%	
Dales	612	30	23	77%	54%	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	566	75	36	48%	56%	
Leen Valley	215	21	12	57%	65%	
Lenton & Wollaton East	300	128	109	85%	65%	
Mapperley	391	45	18	40%	35%	
Meadows	270	12	2	17%	65%	
Radford	272	60	28	47%	53%	
Sherwood	406	112	82	73%	18%	
St Ann's	539	25	6	24%	21%	
Wollaton West	387	58	28	48%	55%	
Nottingham	8,524	926	542	59%	47%	

Two year old places and uptake (sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey summer 2021)

Places and uptake for children aged two years (funded and non-funded provision)

		A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2020 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (2 yrs.)	Number of registered childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	405	94	51	54%	56%	↓
Basford	253	138	88	64%	57%	↑
Berridge	257	75	36	48%	51%	↓
Bestwood	285	51	26	51%	68%	↓
Bilborough	234	61	39	64%	33%	↑
Bulwell	225	72	60	83%	36%	↑
Bulwell Forest	167	105	52	50%	63%	↓
Castle	43	40	28	70%	42%	↑
Clifton East	203	59	43	73%	38%	↑
Clifton West	132	38	31	82%	70%	↑
Dales	314	57	43	75%	59%	↑
Hyson Green & Arboretum	271	155	75	48%	57%	↓
Leen Valley	100	56	31	55%	70%	↓
Lenton & Wollaton East	161	110	88	80%	52%	↑
Mapperley	193	70	47	67%	60%	↑
Meadows	150	31	20	65%	73%	↓
Radford	133	103	58	56%	52%	↑
Sherwood	201	132	107	81%	19%	↑
St Ann's	265	57	31	54%	52%	↑
Wollaton West	200	77	43	56%	71%	↓
Nottingham	4,192	1581	997	63%	52%	↑

Three and four year old places and uptake – All providers (sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider survey summer 2021)






















Places and uptake for children aged three and four years old (funded and non-funded provision)

		A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2020 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (3 and 4 yrs.)	Number of registered childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	790	327	222	68%	59%	👉
Basford	484	556	458	82%	73%	👉
Berridge	481	352	228	65%	53%	👉
Bestwood	580	309	184	60%	49%	👉
Bilborough	516	290	186	64%	48%	👉
Bulwell	515	340	238	70%	54%	👉
Bulwell Forest	326	333	153	46%	54%	👇
Castle	64	56	40	71%	41%	👉
Clifton East	480	412	325	79%	60%	👉
Clifton West	268	82	71	87%	64%	👉
Dales	542	349	226	65%	51%	👉
Hyson Green & Arboretum	536	369	255	69%	50%	👉
Leen Valley	191	198	105	53%	49%	👉
Lenton & Wollaton East	328	323	234	72%	56%	👉
Mapperley	380	226	153	68%	54%	👉
Meadows	260	146	134	92%	52%	👉
Radford	240	244	155	64%	67%	👇
Sherwood	421	320	278	87%	65%	👉
St Ann's	563	316	236	75%	50%	👉
Wollaton West	427	247	182	74%	79%	👇
Nottingham	8,392	5795	4063	70%	57%	👉

Out of school places and uptake *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey summer 2021)*

	Number of children in ward (4-11)	Holiday Scheme Places	Breakfast Club Places	Breakfast Club % Uptake	After School Club Places	After School Club % Uptake
Aspley	3,171	29	83	↓ 55%	33	↑ 64%
Basford	1,934	72	52	↓ 23%	84	↓ 27%
Berridge	1,815	35	10	↓ 40%	20	↓ 15%
Bestwood	2,049	60	62	↑ 39%	51	↓ 55%
Bilborough	2,059	13	12	↑ 25%	12	↑ 25%
Bulwell	2,035	103	51	↓ 33%	54	→ 46%
Bulwell Forest	1,328	125	140	↑ 64%	159	↑ 65%
Castle	211	0	0	→ 0	0	→ 0
Clifton East	1,788	67	92	↑ 62%	57	↓ 28%
Clifton West	959	20	30	↓ 67%	28	↓ 64%
Dales	2,037	26	37	↑ 57%	26	↓ 46%
Hyson Green & Arboretum	2,014	24	12	↓ 67%	54	↑ 57%
Leen Valley	791	17	10	↓ 70%	18	↓ 83%
Lenton & Wollaton East	1,072	134	46	↑ 54%	60	↓ 70%
Mapperley	1,415	37	29	↑ 34%	26	↑ 50%
Meadows	1,010	16	44	↓ 73%	22	↓ 59%
Radford	853	65	60	↓ 58%	50	↓ 40%
Sherwood	1,508	51	45	↓ 47%	37	↓ 41%
St Ann's	1,757	29	90	↓ 72%	90	↑ 72%
Wollaton West	1,718	50	52	↓ 27%	62	↓ 55%
Nottingham	31,524	973	957	↑ 48%	943	↓ 48%





















Early Years FUNDED provision - two year old uptake (sourced from the summer term 2021 Early Years Headcount, matched against the associated DWP data of potentially eligible children)

	Number of potentially eligible children in ward	Take-up PVI	Take-up schools	Take-up %	Autumn 2020 comparison	
Aspley	190	134	6	74%	72%	
Basford	109	55	3	53%	59%	
Berridge	129	55	14	53%	53%	
Bestwood	130	67	5	55%	64%	
Bilborough	118	71	3	63%	58%	
Bulwell	148	104	5	74%	72%	
Bulwell Forest	75	43	2	60%	61%	
Castle	5	4	0	80%	78%	
Clifton East	111	45	25	63%	54%	
Clifton West	30	20	4	80%	71%	
Dales	114	63	4	59%	54%	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	144	72	4	53%	51%	
Leen Valley	49	24	1	51%	68%	
Lenton & Wollaton East	53	35	1	68%	58%	
Mapperley	78	33	8	53%	49%	
Meadows	52	33	1	65%	76%	
Radford	67	43	0	64%	77%	
Sherwood	55	32	0	58%	58%	
St Ann's	136	61	13	54%	46%	
Wollaton West	24	17	1	75%	64%	
Nottingham	1817	1011	100	62%	60%	

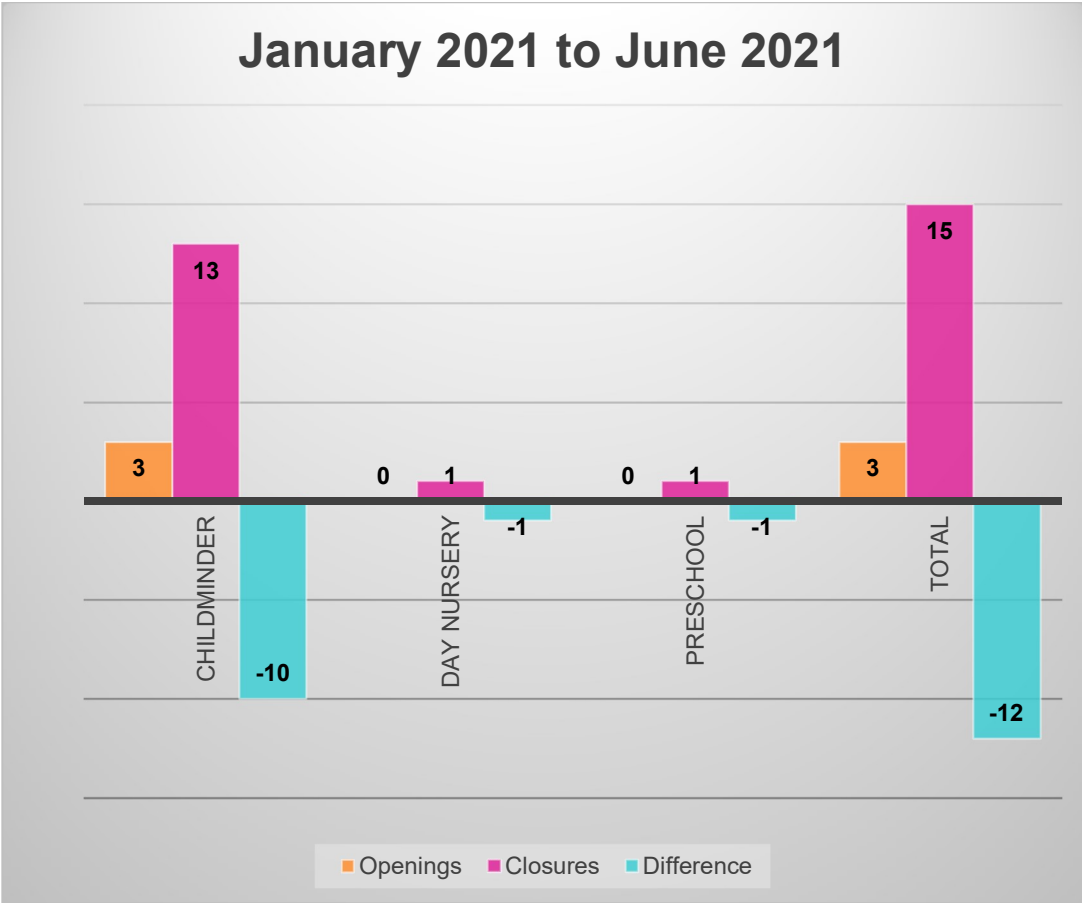
Early Years UNIVERSAL FUNDED provision - three and four year old uptake *(sourced from the summer term 2021 Early Years Headcount)*

	A	B	C	B+C/A x 100	Autumn 2020 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (3 and 4 yrs.)	Uptake in Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	Uptake in Schools	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	790	214	276	62%	46%	↑
Basford	484	88	192	58%	51%	↑
Berridge	481	110	209	66%	69%	↓
Bestwood	580	95	279	64%	67%	↓
Bilborough	516	137	222	70%	48%	↑
Bulwell	515	117	300	81%	63%	↑
Bulwell Forest	326	54	164	67%	83%	↓
Castle	64	30	8	59%	56%	↑
Clifton East	480	42	234	58%	57%	↑
Clifton West	268	37	74	41%	28%	↑
Dales	542	115	176	54%	40%	↑
Hyson Green & Arboretum	536	117	203	60%	71%	↓
Leen Valley	191	66	104	89%	73%	↑
Lenton & Wollaton East	328	70	121	58%	40%	↑
Mapperley	380	89	133	58%	46%	↑
Meadows	260	48	115	63%	66%	↓
Radford	240	56	111	70%	70%	→
Sherwood	421	104	108	50%	53%	↓
St Ann's	563	88	281	66%	49%	↑
Wollaton West	427	150	135	67%	42%	↑
Nottingham	8,392	1827	3445	63%	55%	↑

Early Years EXTENDED FUNDED provision (30 hours) - three and four year old uptake *(sourced from the summer term 2021 Early Years Headcount)*

	Take-up PVI	Take-up schools	Total	Autumn 2020 comparison	
Aspley	64	19	83	22	
Basford	42	55	97	66	
Berridge	52	30	82	23	
Bestwood	40	65	105	63	
Bilborough	66	33	99	46	
Bulwell	48	52	100	42	
Bulwell Forest	26	47	73	72	
Castle	8	0	8	14	
Clifton East	24	71	95	58	
Clifton West	18	14	32	20	
Dales	34	14	48	25	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	23	19	42	56	
Leen Valley	33	4	37	29	
Lenton Abbey & Wollaton East	31	4	35	98	
Mapperley	47	13	60	44	
Meadows	17	14	31	-	-
Radford	11	8	19	36	
Sherwood	62	28	90	134	
St Ann's	30	26	56	34	
Wollaton West	105	26	131	121	
Nottingham	781	542	1323	1023	

Registered childcare provision: openings and closures *(sourced from local Ofsted data and Childminder Agency data)*



Context

- Overall Nottingham has seen a 0.5% decrease in the number of registered childcare providers since January 2021, compared to a 3.65% decrease nationally in the same period <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joiners-and-leavers-in-the-childcare-sector>.
- Childminding remains the most transient type of provision of the City and the closures represent some natural churn (moving out of the area). The LA host briefing sessions for those planning to register as a childminder. Since January 2021 there have been 2 childminder briefing sessions delivered to 10 prospective childminders working towards Ofsted registration.
- The net difference in last years' pre-school provision was a loss of 2 providers. In the past 6 months there has been 1 loss. Again, this was due to lack of parental demand which has started to decrease before the pandemic.
- The number of childcare providers closing to those opening remains greater. However, the net difference is less than the previous year.
- Numbers of children returning to the childcare sector are slowly starting to grow. We remain cautious as to whether the full effect of the pandemic has yet to be felt by the sector.

Services for children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey summer term 2021)*

Local provision of SEND funding support

There are over 92 children across the city currently benefitting from [Early Years SEND funding](#) (EYSF) and on average 15 children per term in receipt of [Disability Access funding](#) (DAF) in the PVI sector. Both the EYSF and DAF provide financial support to childcare providers and schools to include a child with SEND. There is scope to increase the number of children in receipt of DAF and the Local Authority is working with childcare providers and schools to identify eligible children and gain consent from parents to make a funding application.

The Local Authority is currently in consultation with the Early Years sector including both schools and PVI settings in relation to the High Level Needs fund banding levels and the current application system. The proposal will see the current three funding bands (A, B and C) increase to 9. This will provide a more proportionate level of funding to providers that reflect support costs based on a child's attendance. By increasing the bandings it will provide more flexibility to support changing need and assist with effective transitions. The EYFS Reforms focus on reduction in paperwork and a shift of looking at children's development within set age bands. The proposed application system will move away from a specific assessment tool to focus on what practitioners are observing and the child's specific individual needs.

CONTEXT

There are 210 Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO's) in city schools and childcare settings. Most undertake the role in addition to their substantive post. 80% of SENCO's have been issued a SENCO specific job description to support with their understanding of the role and associated responsibilities.

SENCO's have access to continuous professional development via the Local Authority or other training providers. In the PVI sector, 81% of all lead SENCO's have completed the LA SENCO training. 40% of group settings have joined the LA SENCO Network where they receive relevant local and national information on SEND agenda's and ongoing training to update their skills and knowledge.

[Ask Lion](#) is an online directory of community services and organisations. The directory includes information about Children and Families Services, Social Care, Health, Housing and Money. Parents can access online guidance on the City's Local Offer for children and adults with SEND including what services each childcare provider has to offer in order to be an inclusive and accessible service.

Parental Engagement

Over the past 18 months, there has been a notable decrease in the number of families returning to or enrolling their children in early years provision. This is despite the majority of early years providers remaining open to some or all families throughout the pandemic. The reasons for this vary and include among others:

• Fear of infection	• School closure	• Redundancy
• Self-isolation	• Working from home	• Furlough

To counteract this decline and support the rebuilding of parental confidence and engagement, the following strategies have been developed and implemented across the city:



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FINDING YOU ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT IN NOTTINGHAM



1. Contact us to find out if you're eligible
2. We'll help you to find a place at a childminder or nursery
3. Then it's time to play, make friends and have fun!

Apply online/search for childcare provider needs:
www.asklion.co.uk/freechildcarefor2s
Or alternatively call 0800 455 4114



Impact of COVID-19 on childcare services

Since the pandemic hit in March 2020, the country has experienced a roller coaster of lockdowns, restriction, rises and drops in infection rates, tiers, lifting of restrictions, more lockdowns.....As we are still experiencing high rates of infections, parents remain understandably cautious and many are making the decision, if they can, to keep their younger children at home. We can see that in some areas, numbers of children accessing childcare provision are starting to grow. In others recovery is much slower. Anecdotally, we are aware that some childcare providers are scaling down their businesses in order to recover and regrow. This is a sensible approach and one we would recommend where possible. What we may see therefore, is a reduction in the number of childcare places but not necessarily a reduction in the number of childcare providers. Once the economy starts to recover along with renewed parental confidence, childcare providers will hopefully be in a much better position to expand in order to meet demand.

From data gathered through the CSA Provider Survey Summer 2021, we have extracted the following as an indication of the current childcare business position:

- 39% of providers have seen an increase in occupancy. 32% have seen a decrease compared to 60% in the autumn term 2020.
- 35% of providers have concerns about their business with occupancy and financial sustainability being the main concerns.
- Only 19% of providers have staffing concerns however, with the current rise in infection and Test and Trace, providers are beginning to struggle with maintaining ratios which will affect participation.

SUPPORT TO THE CHILDCARE SECTOR

The Local Authority Early Years team offer support, challenge, advice and guidance to the local childcare sector. Our methods of engagement with the sector are currently in-line with government and local restrictions and guidance. We adapted our strategies throughout the pandemic to maintain connection with the sector in the safest possible ways. This included online provider networking, online 1 to 1 discussions, daily bulletins, newsletters and adapting our Continuous Professional Development (CPD) offer to be delivered virtually. Our strategies have been successful and we have received positive feedback from the sector.

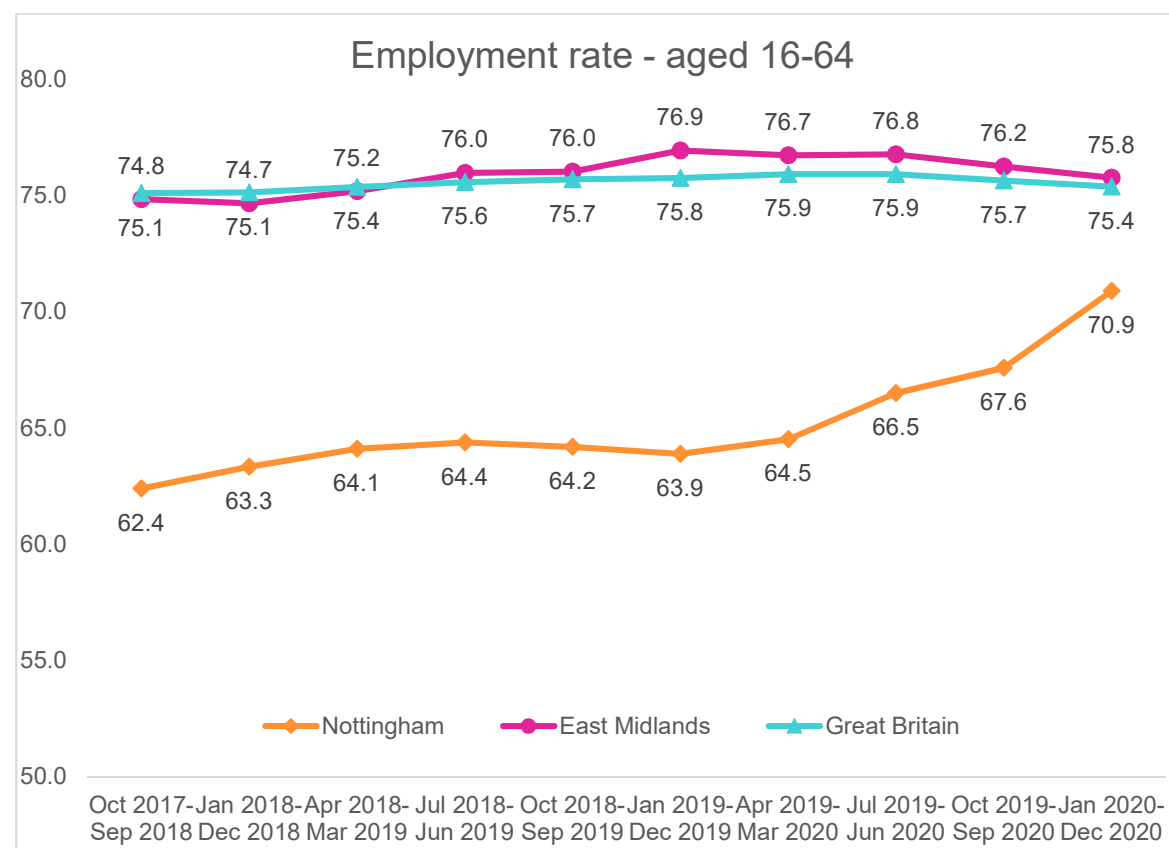
As restrictions lift we remain cautious but optimistic. Our CPD plan from September continues to be offered online however, we will adapt and progress as restrictions allow. We will follow the same principle with our 1 to 1 support to childcare providers and our networking opportunities.

Priorities for the sector during the autumn term 2021 include: implementation of the revised EYFS, Ofsted resuming graded inspections, occupancy and business recovery and managing any future COVID infections, guidance and restrictions.

Working families (sourced from: ONS Employment and Labour Market statistics Jan-Dec 2019)

Children by combined economic activity status of household members

	Households where all parents work		Households with one working parent and one non-working parent		Households with no working parents	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Nottingham (Jan-Dec 2020)	NOT YET AVAILABLE					
Nottingham (Jan-Dec 2019)	31,000	48.5	20,000	32.6	12,000	18.9



The following extract has been taken from: [Covid-19's Local Economic Impact on Nottingham - an updated assessment \(April 2021\)](#)

Key Economic Indicators

Sectors across the City which may have experienced significant net falls in jobs over last year are Accommodation and Food Services (-2,200); Administration and Support Services (-1,700); and Wholesale and Retail (-1,600); Manufacturing (-900); and Health and Social Work (-900). The latest figures show 17,900 jobs furloughed in the City (38,000 in Greater Nottingham) at the end of January 2021.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic unemployment rose quickly between February and May 2020 at both the City and national levels. The rates then tailed off and had gradually declined by November 2020 as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme became more widely rolled out. The most recent estimated figures for February 2021 show an increase of 670 people claiming unemployment benefits since November, with all of the increase occurring in the last month, giving a total of 18,939 (8.2%).

Additional factors to consider

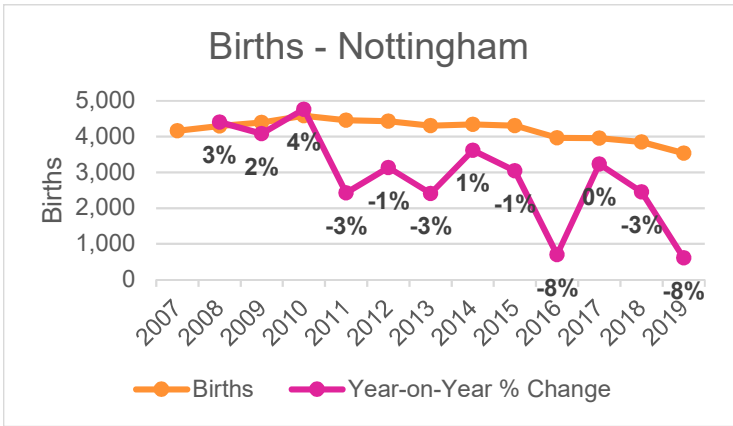
Birth rate (Public Health England)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nottingham	4,627	4,609	4,563	4,441	4,359	4,400	4,381	4,232	3,861	3,698	3,470

Falling birth rate

The number of births in Nottingham has been reducing year on year for a few years, as is the case nationally.

It is possible that the birth rates could rise again or that outward migration could fall, which would lead to a higher demand for childcare places. It is therefore crucial that demographic trends are closely monitored.



Educating at home and working from Home

There has been a significant rise locally and nationally in parents opting to educate their children at home. This is also the case with parents working from home who have adapted their working hours to enable them to manage their own childcare arrangements. Whether these trends continue is dependent on many factors including when and if businesses resume pre-pandemic operations. Some business may decide to continue to support their employees to work from home which may have a sustained detrimental impact on out of school provision.

Hong Kong British Nationals (BN)

In April 2021, the Government launched a support package to enable Hong Kong BN status holders and their families to settle in the United Kingdom. Nottingham has been identified as a potential destination for visa holders who will arrive over a five year period. The support package includes access to free early years entitlement funding in schools and childcare settings. We are not aware at this time how many families this may involve however, the Local Authority will have a duty to ensure accessible early years provision as part of our Childcare Sufficiency duty.

Additional factors to consider continued

Housing

The information below has been sourced from Nottingham City Council Planning and Building Control. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-business/planning-and-building-control/building-a-better-nottingham/housing-developments/>

Bestwood: Padstow Development	500 homes. Development to start in 2021
Meadows: Arkwright Walk	Various sites across the Meadows
Nottingham City Homes:	
Tunstall Drive in Basford	Building 17 new homes - five two-bed houses and 12 one-bed apartments
Knights Close in Top Valley	Transforming a former shopping precinct into 20 family homes, a retail unit and a parsonage for the local church
Aldgate Close in Bulwell	Building 13 two, three and four-bed family homes at the former Marlstones care home site
Meadows: Clifton Miners' Welfare Club	Planning 20 homes

Significant housing growth in some areas of the City, e.g. Waterside and Island site. Developer interest expected to be stimulated further on other sites as the new pedestrian bridge linking north and south bank of the river is delivered.

Government's requirement for 35% uplift in the planned housing delivery figures for Nottingham. However, there are often protracted and lengthy timescales and limited information on tenure, size of houses and occupation rates.

Childcare Sufficiency Implications – headlines to be taken forward to action or further investigation

Sufficiency of childcare places

There are vacancies reported across each age range across every ward in the city. There needs to be an element of caution taken with the data presented. Measuring sufficiency is complex, particularly as the full extent of the impact the pandemic will have on the sector is yet to be seen.

When we compare data in this report to data collected autumn 2020, we can identify where demand for childcare provision continues to fall and to what extent. We can also see that in some areas recovery has started to have an impact on the childcare sector as occupancy is on the rise, which is great news. There may not be a need to expand provision currently however, maintaining existing childcare places is a priority to ensure availability of service as part of the city's economic recovery.

Out of School places

Comparing summer 2021 data to autumn 2020 data, there are a number of concerns relating to out of school childcare provision. 12 out of the 20 wards have seen a drop in take up of after school provision. 11 out of the 20 wards have seen a drop in take up of breakfast club provision. There has been a 6% drop in the number of holiday scheme places, 12% drop in after school places and 22% drop in breakfast club places across the city.

The out of school sector has been hit particularly hard during the pandemic. A recent [report](#) published by Coram Family and Childcare, based on feedback from 122 Local Authorities, identifies the following:

Responses were unanimous from many LAs that out-of-school (wrap-around) provision had been substantially down and this part of the sector was typically reported as having had the greatest reductions in numbers. Suggested reasons included reduced demand due to home working and children not being in schools, but other explanations included a lack of school premises or schools wanting to reduce multiple contacts. A few LAs suggested that lack of government guidance and financial support was also a factor.

As mentioned previously in this report, as restrictions lift some businesses, where they are able, may choose to keep some practices adopted during the pandemic. This may be that fewer employees return to the 'office' and continue to work from home. This could impact on demand and risk out of school provision sustainability. There will be a need to closely monitor the out of school sector over the coming months.

Funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds

Participation rates across all of the free entitlements are rising slowly but are still some way from pre-pandemic levels. There is still an element of caution among families potentially fuelled by the recent rise in infections and the onset of school summer holidays. Parents could be holding off applying for funded childcare provision until the start of the new term.

Nottingham City Early Years, Early Help and Families Information Service continue to review and develop the joint parental engagement strategy which identifies systems and approaches to maximise take-up of the early year's entitlements. This includes strategies connected to our partners which includes, among others, Small Steps Big Changes and parent partnerships. As restrictions lift, and face to face activities with parents resume, a greater emphasis and worker time will be spent talking to families about the free entitlement. This is by all means the most effective method of engagement.

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