

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2024 – 2025

This document provides a review of the sufficiency of early years education and childcare in Derbyshire.



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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

1. AIMS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to evaluate the current childcare market in Derbyshire taking into consideration the recent Childcare Reforms. The key focus of the reforms is to increase parental engagement in the labour market, by having access to affordable childcare. There are two key strands to the Childcare Reforms: the expansion of the Early Years Entitlements and Wraparound Childcare.
- 1.2 This report aims to evaluate the current childcare market in Derbyshire and identify where there may be gaps in provision and the action required to ensure parents/carers have access to high-quality, affordable childcare.
- 1.3 As this is a changing market, the data in this report can only provide a snapshot of the current landscape.
- 1.4 While Derbyshire County Council believes this information to be correct, it does not guarantee its accuracy nor does the Council accept any liability for any direct or indirect loss or damage or other consequences arising from the use of such information supplied.

2. THE CHILDCARE DUTY

- 2.1 The statutory duty under sections 6, and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 require the local authority to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 14 (or up to 18 years for disabled children).
- 2.2 Section 1 and 2 of the Childcare Act 2016 requires the Secretary of State to instruct local authorities to secure free (funded) childcare for qualifying children of eligible working parents. The Childcare (Free of Charge for Working Parents) (England) Regulations 2022 set out the duty is discharged. Regulation 44 of the regulations requires local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children of eligible working parents, to discharge the duty in section 1 of the Act.
- 2.3 The legislation is supplemented by <u>Department for Education (DfE) guidance:</u>
 <u>Early education and childcare</u> updated on 1st January 2024. The guidance states that the local authority must report annually to elected members and make this report available and accessible to parents. The report should include specific information about:

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- a specific reference to the sufficiency of childcare to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit, children with parents who work irregular hours, children taking up free early education and childcare places, school age children, and children needing holiday care.
- Supply and demand of childcare, affordability, accessibility and quality of childcare provision.
- Details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

3. INTRODUCTION TO EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

3.1 The demand and type of childcare will differ for each age group, and as a child gets older the need for childcare will change or reduce.

Early Years Childcare Provision for 0 to Four Year Olds

- 3.2 Children aged 0 four years may require day care which may be provided by day nurseries, pre-schools and childminders. Many schools also have nursery classes providing early years education for three- and four-year-olds with some taking children from the age of two years.
- 3.3 It is widely recognised that high-quality early years' provision can improve outcomes later in life and access to good quality early education and childcare has been found to influence overall educational outcomes by better preparing children for their later education. Research has shown that children who attended early years provision had higher attainment than those who did not, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.¹
- 3.4 In England, all children aged between 9 months and four years are entitled to either 15 or 30 hours per week of funded early years education depending on their age and family circumstances. These early years entitlements have recently been expanded so more children can access more funded childcare, see section 5.1.

Childcare Provision for Five to 11 Year Olds

3.5 Children are entitled to a full-time place in a state-funded school reception class from the September following their fourth birthday however for the purpose of this report school aged children are referred to as aged five to 11 as legally a child does not have to start school until the term after they turn five.

¹ 1 B Taggart, K Sylva, E Mulhuish, P Sammons and I Siraj, Effective pre-school, primary and secondary education project (EPPSE 3-16+). How pre-school influences children and young people's attainment and development outcomes over time. Research brief, Department for Education, June 2015.

3.6 Children aged 5 to 11 will be in full-time education but may require wraparound childcare before or after school or in the holidays, again this can be provided by the childcare providers listed above or by stand-alone out of school provision either on or off school sites.

Wraparound Childcare for Older Children/Young People aged 12 to 18

3.7 As a child reaches secondary school age the need for wraparound childcare diminishes as they become more independent and the demand for this age group is significantly less than others. Young people in the 15 -18 age group that require childcare are generally those with additional needs or disabilities requiring wraparound or holiday care. More detail on wraparound childcare provision can be found in section 9.

4. CHILDCARE DEMAND

Population of children in Derbyshire

- 4.1 Understanding the population of children in Derbyshire is a key tool to determining the potential demand for childcare to ensure there are sufficient childcare places, where reasonably practicable, for children aged 0 14 and disabled children/young adults up to the age of 18 as required by the legislation.
- 4.2 Population data provided by NHS Digital based on the number of children on GP registers suggests a decline in the birth rate in recent years which could have implications for the demand for childcare now and in the foreseeable future (figure 1).



Figure 1. Population of children aged 0 to 18 in Derbyshire.

Source: NHS Digital, May 2024

4.3 Official consultation results released by the Department of Education (DfE) suggest that the current national percentage of take up of formal childcare per age group is as follows. N.B. These figures relate to the period prior to the initial expansion to early years entitlement. (April 2024).

Figure 2. Estimated national	percentage of	childcare use	per age group.
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Age of Child	0	1	2	3	4	5 - 7	8 - 1 1	12 - 14
Use of Formal Childcare Providers in 2023	7%	38%	58%	83%	91%	52%	32%	13%

Childcare and early years survey of parents, reporting year 2023 - Explore education statistics — supporting files, table 1.8 (GOV.UK)

4.4 The data in figure 2 has been used to estimate the demand for childcare across all age groups in figure 3, however the number of funded three- and four-year-olds is based on Derbyshire's actual take up numbers (see figure 7). It must be noted that as approximately half of four-year-olds are in full time education and no longer require early years provision, the population for this age group has been reduced accordingly and taken account for in the five to seven age group as these children may still require wraparound childcare once at school.

Childcare Demand for Older Children (12 – 18 years)

- 4.5 The local authority's duty to provide childcare includes children up to age 14 or 18 with a disability or additional need. As a child reaches secondary school age the need for childcare diminishes as they become more independent and the demand for childcare amongst the 12 14 age group is estimated to be 13% as cited in figure 2.
- 4.6 The Families Resource Survey: Financial year 2022 to 2023 estimates that 11% of children are disabled. This is an increase of 2% from 2020 2021. Using these figures, it is estimated that there are approximately 3,971 young people in Derbyshire aged 15 to 18 with an additional need or disability who potentially may require childcare.

Figure 3. Potential population requiring childcare by age group.

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	Early Years Childcare				Wraparound Childcare					
District	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5 - 7	Age 8 - 11	Age 12 - 14	Age 15 - 18	Total
Amber Valley	77	454	699	1,145	628	2,453	1,827	583	606	8,473
Bolsover	59	317	470	849	438	1,626	1,223	371	409	5,761
Chesterfield	67	369	548	962	538	2,003	1,543	479	506	7,014
Derbyshire Dales	23	141	215	351	209	767	643	214	243	2,805
Erewash	70	389	606	1,009	553	2,212	1,735	534	558	7,665
High Peak	60	344	570	967	522	2,058	1,557	510	557	7,147
NE Derbyshire	62	383	617	937	537	1,972	1,457	455	473	6,893
South Derbyshire	84	487	729	1,227	628	2,443	1,799	568	619	8,584
TOTAL	502	2,883	4,454	7,447	4,053	15,534	11,784	3,715	3,971	54,341

Source: NHS Digital, May 2024

Enquiries

- 4.7 The number of childcare-related enquiries the local authority receives from parents or carers is a good indicator of demand and can highlight issues with accessing provision or gaps in the market, particularly where there is a high percentage of unmet demand in a specific area.
- 4.8 65,928 hits were made on the Derbyshire County Council Families Information Service (FIS) website between September 2023 and August 2024. In addition to this, during the same period 598 enquiries were made via email or Facebook regarding childcare funding application processes, availability and brokerage issues.
- 4.9 The Early Years' Sufficiency Service (EYSS) provides a brokerage service between providers and parents/carers to meet childcare needs. Brokerage referrals are monitored to ensure they do not indicate a childcare sufficiency issue in a particular area. In the academic year 2023 to 2024 there were four brokerage cases that provided parents/carers with individual in depth support to find a suitable childcare place. In the previous 12 months there were a total of four cases that lead to a full brokerage service all of which related to early years places and were successfully resolved.
- 4.10 Legislation places a duty on the local authority to secure sufficient childcare taking into account what is 'reasonably practicable'. Where the EYSS is made aware of any unmet childcare need, an attempt to brokerage a practical solution will always be sought however any solution has to be viable in terms of sustainability.

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5. EARLY YEARS CHILDCARE

The Early Years Entitlements

- 5.1 The 2023 Spring budget saw the announcement of a significant expansion to the government funded entitlements for early years and childcare in England. These measures were intended to reduce childcare costs for working parents/carers and encourage more parents/carers to enter paid work.
- 5.2 In addition to the financial benefits for families, the government's business case argued that the new entitlements will support early education by improving child development and educational outcomes for the children attending these settings²
- 5.3 The Early Years Entitlements are delivered by early years settings but funded by government through the local authority.
- 5.4 Prior to April 2024 the Early Years Entitlements were as follows:
 - Universal Entitlement. All three and four-year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded early education which is known as the Universal Entitlement.
 - Extended Entitlement (30 Hours). Three- and four-year-olds from working families may be entitled to a *further* 15 hours of funded early education per week making 30 hours in total.
 - Assessment Based Two-Year-Old Entitlement. Two-year-olds from disadvantaged backgrounds may also be eligible for 15 hours per week of funded early education. Eligibility is determined by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).
 - 5.5 These will remain but between April 2024 and September 2025 the entitlements will be expanded in stages so that by September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of Early Years Entitlement funding.

The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week.
- from September 2024, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week.
- from September 2025, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week.

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² Preparations to extend early years entitlements for working parents in England (National Audit Office)

- 5.6 The Early Years Entitlements can be provided by the private, voluntary and independent sector (PVI), which includes day nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, or through the school sector.
- 5.7 All entitlements can be used during school term time over 38 weeks of the year or, where the childcare provider is open all year round, may be taken over more weeks if fewer hours are accessed per week (stretched offer).
- 5.8 These hours alone are often enough to meet the childcare needs of many families although the option to pay for additional hours may be available if required dependent on the providers model of delivery. With statutory maternity pay / paternity leave many families find they do not need childcare until around the age of nine months.
- To support local authorities with the implementation of the childcare reforms Childcare Expansion Capital Funding was announced.
- 5.10 Expressions of interest were requested from the childcare sector in May 2023 to assist the local authority in distributing the funding allocation. Further support was announced in October 2024 through the School Based Nurseries Capital Grant Funding for primary schools.
- 5.11 Sufficiency analysis of early years childcare places and potential demand will be considered as part of the application process.

6. DEMAND FOR EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS

Working Families Entitlement for 9 – 24-month Olds

6.1 From September 2024 children from the age of nine months to one year, from eligible working families, have been entitled to 15 hours of early years childcare funding.

Figure 4. Number of 9 – 24 Month Olds Accessing Funded Entitlement

Term	9 – 24 months take up
Autumn 2024 Term	769

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Information and ICT, Sept 2024

Analysis by the Early Years Sufficiency Service (EYSS) prior to September 2024 suggested that there was no significant need to create additional places. The entitlement applies to working families only and it was assumed that the majority of these children were already accessing the childcare they needed but paying for it privately and would simply convert from a fee paying to a funded place. There has been no feedback from parents/carers suggesting there are insufficient places for under two-year-olds.

Two-year old entitlements

Assessment Based Two-year-old Entitlement

- 6.3 Prior to April 2024 only assessment based two-year-olds from disadvantaged backgrounds were eligible for 15 hours of free childcare.
- 6.4 The number of eligible assessment based two-year olds as determined by the DWP spiked during the height of the pandemic in autumn 2020 and may have been due to more families becoming eligible due to pandemic related job losses.
- 6.5 Since this period the number of eligible families have been steadily reducing and is on a downward trajectory. This is due to a falling birth rate, the transition to universal credit from legacy benefits, and the fact that whilst average incomes have recently increased the income thresholds for the eligibility criteria remain unchanged.
- 6.6 The following table shows the numbers of eligible children in Derbyshire compared to the take up. The table clearly shows the steady decline in the number of eligible children/families since the pandemic years, whilst the percentage of take up remains largely consistent and line with national averages.

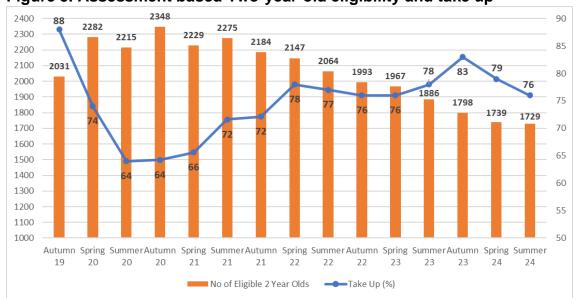


Figure 5. Assessment based Two-year-old eligibility and take up

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Information and ICT, Children's Services, Sept 2024

Working Families Entitlement for 2 Year Olds

6.7 Since April 2024 two-year-olds from working families have been entitled to 5 hours of early years childcare funding. In the first two terms the take up figures are shown below:

Figure 6. Number of 2 Year Olds Accessing Working Families Entitlement

Term	2-Year-old take up (working families)
Summer 2024 Term	3513
Autumn 2024 Term	3831

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Information and ICT, Children's Services, Sept 2024

- 6.8 Analysis by the EYSS prior to April 2024 suggested that there was no significant need to create additional places. The entitlement applies to working families only and it was assumed that the majority of these children were already accessing the childcare they needed but paying for it privately and would simply convert from a fee paying to a funded place.
- 6.9 It is important that the Early Years Sufficiency Service monitor the take up of the 2-year-old entitlement for working families to ensure it does not have a detrimental impact on the supply of assessment based 2-year-old places. It is imperative to ensure there are sufficient places to accommodate both entitlements for this age group.

Final Stage of the Expansion of Early Years Entitlement

- 6.10 From September 2025 the final stage of the current expansion of early years funding programme will come into effect. This will mean that eligible children from working families aged 9 months to two years will be able to access 30 hours of funded early years entitlement. It is projected that this will require approximately an extra 8000 15 hour funded places, although it is anticipated that the majority of these places are already in the system and will come from converting fee paying places to funded places.
- 6.11 The Governments initial estimations of take up for the entitlement expansion is 66%, however Derbyshire will continue to monitor this as it is expected this may increase over time.

Universal entitlement for three-and-four-year-olds

- 6.12 Unlike all the other early years entitlements, *all* children are eligible for 15 hours of the universal entitlement from the age of three until they start school and there is no need to apply for a code to prove eligibility as with the other entitlements.
- 6.13 Most parents/carers in Derbyshire choose to use these hours and take up is generally very high and compares favourably to both the national and regional averages. The data below shows that, whilst the take up dipped during the pandemic years, the figures have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 7. Take up of universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds per year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2024
Derbyshire	98%	96%	92%	93%	98%
East Midlands	95%	94%	92%	92%	95%
England	93%	93%	90%	92%	95%

Source: Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

Extended Entitlement for 3- and 4-Year Olds (30 hours)

- 6.14 This entitlement is available for three- and four-year-olds from working families and provides an additional 15 hours of funded childcare (30 hours in total).
- 6.15 Since it was launched in 2017 the numbers of children accessing this entitlement have steadily increased at both a national and local level (excluding a short dip during the pandemic).

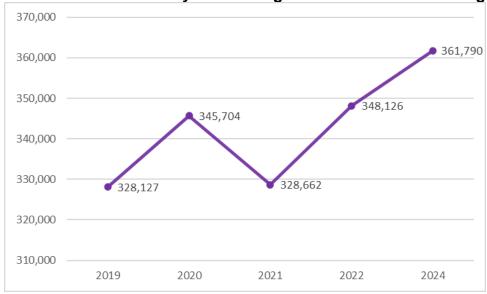


Figure 8. Number of 3-&-4-year-olds registered for 30 hours in England

Source: Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

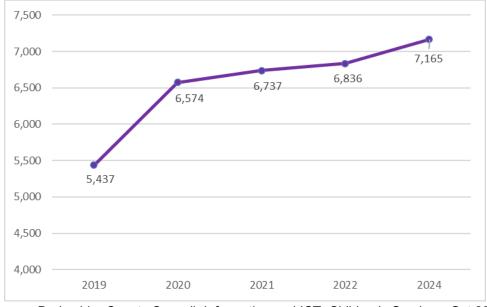


Figure 9. Number of 3-&-4-year-olds registered for 30 hours in Derbyshire

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Information and ICT, Children's Services, Oct 2024

6.16 Not all families who are eligible will need to use the extended entitlement due to working patterns or use of informal childcare. The government's most recent take up figures for eligible children is estimated to around be 4 in 5 children (80%),³. The local take up figures for each district in Derbyshire can be found in the Early Years Snapshots in the appendices.

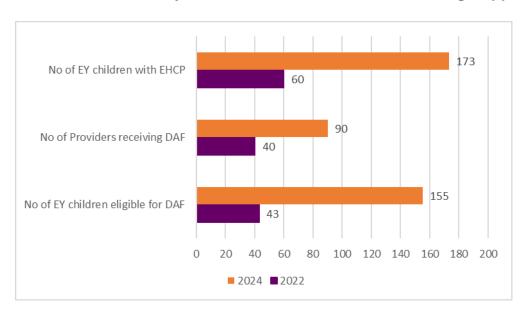
³ Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

Early Years Provision for children with SEND

- 6.16 Childcare provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is provided by mainstream childcare settings and a number of specialist services in both the maintained and PVI sectors.
- 6.17 In line with the SEN Code of Practice all providers must be inclusive and have arrangements in place to support children with SEN or disabilities. The provider should be clear and transparent about the SEND support and make 'reasonable adjustments' to meet the needs of children with SEND.
- 6.18 Specialist teachers from the Early Years Special Educational Needs Service (EYSEN) support children with SEND attending PVI early years settings throughout Derbyshire and 2-year-olds in maintained provision. The EYSEN Outreach team supports nursery children in both PVI and maintained settings. Support for 3- and 4-year-old nursery children with SEND in maintained settings is available by referral to targeted and specialist support of the ISAS (Inclusion Support Advisory Service) These specialist teachers also provide advice and training.
- 6.19 All services promote and support the authentic and effective inclusion of children with SEND in their local early years settings and work to increase the knowledge, understanding and confidence of sector staff to enable that inclusive ethos and approach.
- 6.20 Regardless of setting, the local authority supports childcare providers with children with SEND through funding streams such as Early Years Inclusion Funding (EYIF) and Disability Access Funding (DAF).
- 6.21 DAF was introduced by the DfE in 2017 for providers of early years education. Providers will be entitled to claim DAF for any child who is accessing a funded place who is also in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- 6.22 The implementation of an Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) is a statutory duty of all local authorities. Settings can apply for EYIF for children accessing a funded place, who have barriers to learning and require more support than that which can be provided through normally available resources. Learning needs may be temporary or long term. EYIF enables settings to have enhanced staffing ratios to support children with SEND.
- 6.23 In the financial year to 5th April 2024, a total of 753 children were supported through EYIF. Of these children, 181 had low/emerging needs, 534 had moderate needs and 38 had complex SEND. In the summer term 2024, 61% of PVI group care providers were in receipt of EYIF to support children with SEND in their setting and 42% of these settings were accessing support from either an EYSEN specialist teacher or Outreach practitioner.

- 6.24 Some children with special needs or disabilities may be given an education, health and care plan (EHCP), to help provide additional support. ECHPs set out the additional support needed to meet the educational, health and social needs of the child or young person.
- 6.25 Figure 10 below shows an overall increase in the number of early years children with additional needs in receiving support through ECHP and DAF since 2022.

Figure 10. Number of Early Years Children with SEND Receiving Support



6.26 The <u>Derbyshire Local Offer</u> brings together information about the services and support available for children/young people with SEND, and their families.

Specific information is available on the Local Offer relating to children in the <u>Early</u> Years with SEND

7. SUPPLY OF EARLY YEARS PLACES

Number of early years funded providers in Derbyshire.

7.1 The number of early years childcare providers in the county registered to deliver early years funded places for early years children has remained fairly static since September 2022, see figure 11.

Figure 11. Number of providers delivering early years funded places

	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-24	24 Mnth Change	5 yr Change
Day Nurseries	143	141	141	139	137	-2	-6
Pre-Schools	110	107	103	91	83	-8	-27
Childminders	328	319	300	251	252	1	-76
School run provision	121	127	133	138	145	7	24
Independent schools	10	11	9	8	8	0	-2
TOTAL	712	705	686	627	625	-2	-87

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Exchequer Financial Services, September 2024

- 7.2 Nationally, there is a declining trend in the number of early years providers which has fallen for four consecutive years. This national data shows the decrease is mainly driven by a fall in the number of PVI providers but offset by a smaller rise in schools delivering 30 hours⁴.
- 7.3 This is mirrored in the Derbyshire figures. Over the five-year period the number of funded childcare providers has reduced by 87, with childminders and preschools having seen the largest fall in numbers. However, in the last 24 months childminder numbers have remained fairly static but pre-schools numbers have continued to drop. Only school run provision shows a consistent trend for growth.
- 7.4 Although the data indicates an increase in the number of closures of childcare providers, this may not have a significant impact upon the sufficiency of childcare in Derbyshire, as the birth rate has continued to fall and today there are over 1000 fewer children aged 0 to four in Derbyshire than in 2019. As with any market, demand will have an impact upon supply.
- 7.5 Any reduction in the number of providers is monitored by the EYSS to identify any trends and the impact upon the childcare market.

⁴ Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

Number of Places

- 7.6 By using Derbyshire's provider payment figures and data gathered from providers it is possible to estimate approximately how many early years funded places there are currently in the county.
- 7.7 In October 2024 it was estimated that there were approximately 33,042 15-hour places available in Derbyshire as allocated below. The sufficiency of these places is addressed in section 8.

Figure 12. Estimated Number of Places per Age Group in Derbyshire

9 –23	1 Year Old	2 Year Olds	3-&-4 Year
Months			Olds
No. of places	No. of places	No. of places	No. of places
1458	5384	7521	18679

7.8 In fulfilling the requirements of the local authority's statutory duties, Derbyshire Early Years' Service aims to ensure that not only are there sufficient places for children, but also that early years' provision is high quality, affordable and accessible to parents/carers.

Quality of Early Years Provision

- 7.9 In line with the Statutory Guidance, the local authority relies solely on the Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) inspection judgements of the providers as a measure of the quality of childcare. Ofsted and inspectorates of independent schools must have regard to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage Framework) when carrying out inspections, and report on the quality and standards of provision.
- 7.10 From September 2024, Ofsted no longer provide a single overall grade of effectiveness when inspecting state schools. Early years' provision in maintained schools and academies for children aged 2 and above, and Maintained Nursery Schools are included in this change. The government is committed to replacing single headline grades in all the remits that Ofsted inspects in time, including the entirety of the Early Years sector.
- 7.11 Analysis of Ofsted inspection grades for Derbyshire's early years providers at 31st August 2024 show that 92% were judged to be "good" and 6% "outstanding". Overall, this equates to 98% of the early years providers in Derbyshire being judged as 'good' or better by Ofsted and this is in line with both the national and regional figures⁵. See Figure 13.

⁵ Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2024 - GOV.UK, Table 7

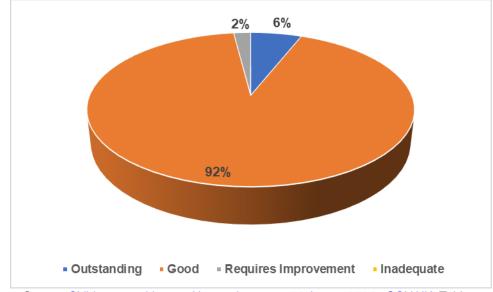


Figure 13. Derbyshire's early years providers Ofsted grading 31/08/24

Source: Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2024 - GOV.UK, Table 7

- 7.12 Early years' provision must be offered in accordance with the national parameters on quality as set out in the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and the EYFS statutory framework.
- 7.13 The EYFS Statutory Framework is mandatory for all early years providers and schools that provide early years' provision and Ofsted-registered providers in England. The EYFS sets the standards that all providers must adhere to, to ensure that children learn, develop well, and are kept healthy and safe.
- 7.14 The local authority has a legal duty to provide information, advice and training on meeting the requirements of the EYFS, meeting the needs of children with SEND and on effective safeguarding for providers who are rated less than 'good' by Ofsted and newly registered.
- 7.15 To ensure providers achieve high quality of provision and meet the requirements within the EYFS, Derbyshire early years settings and schools can access a range of universal and targeted support offered by the Derbyshire Early Years Improvement Team.
- 7.16 To support the expansion to early years provision, the Early Years Improvement team, deliver a programme of support for schools to ensure successful creation of new early years provision.
- 7.17 From September 2022, to support Derbyshire schools and settings to improve outcomes in communication and language, significant funding has been made available from Derbyshire County Councils Levelling Up Fund to enable schools and settings to engage in Confident Communicators packages of support.
- 7.18 Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes in 23/24 indicate 80.2% of Derbyshire children achieved "Expected" levels in Communication and Language compared to 79.3% nationally. Both Derbyshire boys and girls outperformed national outcomes for this area.

7.19 The Early Year Strategic Board (EYSB) was formed in 2024, to champion the Early Years Foundation Stage and bring together professionals and providers working across the Early Years to ensure the Best Start for children and their families in Derbyshire. The EYSB has strategic oversight of the key themes, outcomes for delivery and will monitor impact and progress.

7.20 The key themes:

- Sufficiency of high-quality provision
- Early identification, early funding and early interventions
- Develop a confident and capable workforce in settings.
- Strengthen system leadership of EY with our partners.
- Support parents/carers as the first educators of children.

Affordability of Early Years Childcare

- 7.21 In addition to the quality of childcare, affordability is an equally important factor as this can be the biggest barrier to accessing childcare and may result in parents/families being unable to access work.
- 7.22 The Childcare Survey 2024 published by the Coram Family and Childcare Trust in July 2024 reported that the cost of childcare continues to rise. The survey found that in 2024 the average costs of a part time (25 hours) place in a nursery in England had increased by 7.7% for under twos, 6.4% for two-year-olds since 2023.
- 7.23 The EYSS surveyed providers to measure how many providers were increasing their fees and found that 48% of early years provision had increased their fees in 2022. Feedback from parents/carers concerned about the affordability of childcare is monitored by the local authority (see paragraph 7.28).
- 7.24 The Coram Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2024 found that the East Midlands area had the lowest childcare costs in England for childcare for children aged 0 four years.
- 7.25 The expansion to the early years entitlements aims to support working parents/carers with childcare costs and therefore encourage more to enter (or stay in) paid work.
- 7.26 The burden of the cost of childcare for most working families with pre-school children should have reduced in 2024. Parents/carers of children aged 9 months to two years should have seen their childcare bills reducing with the initial stages of the expansion to the early years entitlements and should be further reduced in September 2025 when these increase again from 15 to 30 hours per week.
- 7.27 It is therefore imperative that parents/carers receive information on all the support with childcare costs that is available to them including the early years entitlements and Tax-Free Childcare. See section 10.6

Top Up and Additional Fees

- 7.28 It is for the provider themselves to determine their fee structure and delivery model. The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (January 2024) states that local authorities should:

 'A1.33 Not intervene where parents choose to purchase additional hours of provision or additional services, provided that this is not a condition of accessing a free place.'
- 7.29 However, local authorities have a legal requirement to work with childcare providers to ensure all parents/carers, including disadvantaged families, have fair access to a funded place, which must be delivered completely free of charge and to ensure providers do not charge "top up" fees on the funded entitlements.
- 7.30 "Top up" fees are defined in the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities [January 2024] as:
 - any difference between a provider's normal charge to parents and the funding they receive from the local authority to deliver free places.
- 7.31 The early years entitlement funding is intended to allow providers to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of funded, high quality, flexible childcare, but is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.
- 7.32 Local Authorities should also:
 - ensure that providers are completely transparent about any additional charges when a parent first takes up their child's free place, for example, for those parents opting to purchase additional hours or additional services.
 - ensure providers do not require parents/carers to pay a registration fee as a condition of taking up their child's free place, however a refundable deposit is acceptable to secure a place providing it does not deter the take up of the funded entitlements, particularly for disadvantaged families.
- 7.33 The local authority monitors this through undertaking regular compliance checks with providers that contract with Derbyshire to deliver the funded places, as well as responding to direct queries from parents/carers regarding pricing structures and invoices.

8. SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS PLACES

- 8.1 The Early Years Sufficiency Team undertakes ongoing monitoring at both a district and ward level to identify any areas of concern or any specific geographical areas that may have pockets of undersupply.
- 8.2 This monitoring compares the estimated number of early years childcare places required based on the population of children aged 0 -four in each individual ward and compares it to the number of early year's places offered by the providers located in the ward.
- 8.3 Not every ward will have a childcare setting located within it but will have population data, therefore some wards will show a deficit of places. Generally where one ward shows a deficit this is offset by the number of places available in neighbouring wards where there may be one or several childcare providers offering sufficient places to meet the needs of the population. This means that not all parents will access childcare within the ward in which they live and may be using childcare in neighbouring wards, districts or even other local authorities.
- 8.4 In the Summer term 2024 there were 817 children aged two to four who reside outside the Derbyshire local authority boundary but accessed their funded entitlements within the County, this could have implications for the accuracy of the data as will Derbyshire children who access their entitlements outside of the County.

Figure 14. Sufficiency of places per district

District	9 to 11- month-old places	1 year old places	2-year-old places (assessment based & working families)	3 & 4 YO places (universal & 30 hours)	Overall Sufficiency in District
Amber Valley	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Undersupply	Undersupply
Bolsover	Sufficient	Sufficient	Oversupply	Undersupply	Sufficient
Chesterfield	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Undersupply	Oversupply
Derbyshire Dales	Sufficient	Oversupply	Oversupply	Sufficient	Oversupply
Erewash	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply
High Peak	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply
North East Derbyshire	Sufficient	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply
South Derbyshire	Oversupply	Oversupply	Oversupply	Undersupply	Oversupply

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Early Years' Service, October 2024

- 8.5 The data analysis can only provide a snapshot and it should be noted that this data may change daily because of changes in population or providers opening, closing or expanding their provision.
- 8.6 The formula for calculating the number of available places is under constant review to ensure it provides the most accurate data possible.
- 8.7 The areas highlighted in red or amber indicate areas where there is a need to undertake further investigation into the sufficiency of places.
- 8.8 The data includes the number of places for nine months, one- and two-yearolds that are available now but occupied by fee paying children who are likely convert to funded places in September 2025. The demand for three- and fouryear-old places is unlikely to change in the future as it is not affected by the final stage of the expansion to entitlements in September 2025.
- 8.9 Overall there are enough places across the whole of Derbyshire to meet current demand. Providers, in particular in the PVI, have the flexibility to allocate places accordingly to meet need, however staffing ratios must be taken into account and if more places are required in younger age groups this may involve the recruitment of more staff.
- 8.10 The surplus of places indicates that there is capacity within Derbyshire to accommodate some of the additional funded places required in the final stage of the extended entitlement roll out in September 2025 when eligible working families with children aged nine month to two years will see their funded entitlement increase to 30 hours.
- 8.11 It is anticipated that from September 2025 approximately an additional 7,500 15-hour places will need to be created to meet the final stage of the expansion. However, analysis has shown that there are already approximately 6,000 fee paying places being access in Derbyshire which are likely to convert to funded places.
- 8.12 Amber Valley is the district that is causing the greatest sufficiency concerns but it is also important to note that Amber Valley borders other areas with a significant surplus (e.g. Erewash) that could be providing childcare for children in this district.
- 8.13 Further investigation at a more localised level will be undertaken to identify the areas or wards of most concern and what potential actions may be needed.
- 8.14 To meet the shortfall of places the Early Years Expansion Capital Funding will be allocated to areas with the greatest deficit.
- 8.15 In addition to this, there will be development of school provision through the Early Entitlement Capital grant funding and School Based Nursery Capital grant Funding in next 12 months which will create additional places in schools, this will focus largely on two, three- and four-year-old provision.

- 8.16 From November 2024 new flexibilities for childminders will be introduced which will give childminders greater capacity to deliver from premises other than their home and enable them to work with more assistants which may increase place capacity amongst childminders.
- 8.17 Points to consider in the interpretation of this data include:
 - Derbyshire has received very few communications from parents/carers stating they are unable to find a suitable funded early years place for their child. Where this has been reported to the local authority a suitable place has been found for the family, which is an indicator that there are generally sufficient places.
 - Parents do not always access childcare within the boundaries of the districts and may use a setting from outside the area in which they live for a variety of reasons including work.
 - This assessment classifies a place as 15 hours, however one single 3- or 4-year-old child can occupy 2 x 15-hour places when taking up their 30 hours entitlement. The data indicates a deficit of approximately 800 places across Derbyshire for 3- & 4-Year-olds but this may translate to 400 individual children if they are entitled to the 30 hours.
 - It is difficult to compare the sufficiency data in this report with the previous report of 2022 as the expansion in entitlements has resulted in different methods of calculating place sufficiency.

District sufficiency snapshots

8.18 A snapshot of the sufficiency picture of early years places in each of the eight districts of Derbyshire can be found in the Appendices.

9. WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

9.1 Wraparound childcare is childcare that 'wraps around' the conventional school day; it can also refer to provision in the school holidays.

Wraparound Childcare Programme

- 9.2 As part of the Spring 2023 Budget, the Government announced an investment of £289 million for a national wraparound programme which would be distributed as grants from local authorities to childcare providers to support the creation or expansion of wraparound provision.
- 9.3 The programme defines 'wraparound childcare' as provision available directly before and after the school day, every day during term time. It excludes out-of-school activities, or school clubs, which are less frequent and can be a one-off or short-term activity.
- 9.4 The programme aims to ensure that all schools have wraparound childcare available, whether it is provision that is run directly by the school or provision run by a PVI provider on or off a school site so that by September 2026, all parents/carers of primary school-aged children, who need it, will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am to 6pm. This is to provide dependable provision for working parents/carers and encourage more to enter into work or access further education.
- 9.5 Parents/carers are still expected to pay for their wraparound childcare (unlike the early years' entitlements), this scheme aims to increase the availability of childcare, rather than provide funded places, however financial support is still available to eligible parents/carers through Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit childcare schemes (see section 10.6). It is a requirement of the wraparound funding programme that all funded providers are registered with Ofsted which will allow parents/carers to claim the financial support.
- 9.6 Derbyshire's funding allocation will support the authority to liaise with schools and PVI providers to create or expand wraparound childcare provision. The local authority has undertaken a mapping exercise to update the scope of the provision that currently exists within Derbyshire to identify gaps in wraparound provision and which schools the local authority needs to work with.
- 9.7 The development of additional wraparound places will build upon and complement any existing local provision and avoid funding any creation/expansion of places which may have a detrimental impact on established providers as this will help to ensure that wraparound childcare is sustainable.
- 9.8 In May 2024 the EYSS invited applications for the Wraparound Programme Funding from schools and PVI providers. The first round of funding was approved by the Wraparound Funding Panel in July 2024, this saw the initial development of 219 wraparound places from September 2024.

- 9.9 Further funding rounds have been planned throughout the autumn term 2024 to enable the local authority to maximise the number of places created or expanded at the beginning of the programme and to allow sufficient time for provision to become sustainable.
- 9.10 Whilst the Wraparound Childcare Programme focusses on term time provision only, it is acknowledged that demand for childcare in the holidays and at irregular hours exists and further investigation into the sufficiency of these will be undertaken.

Wraparound Childcare for Children Young People with SEND

- 9.11 The availability of childcare for the <u>Derbyshire Local Offer</u> provides information on the availability of wraparound childcare for older children/younger people.
- 9.12 In a survey of wraparound childcare providers undertaken in February 2024 by the EYSS, 76% of respondents stated they were able to offer wraparound childcare provision to children who require additional support, see Figure 15.

Thildren with SEND/Additional Needs

24%

76%

• Yes - able to offer wraparound to children with additional needs
• No - unable to offer wraparound to children with additional needs

Figure 15. Percentage of Providers Offering Wraparound for children with SEND/Additional Needs

Source: Derbyshire County Council, Early Years SEN Service, October 2024

- 9.13 Childminders made up the majority of the 24% of providers who stated they were unable to offer wraparound to children with additional needs. The main barrier cited was staffing, with space being the second most significant barrier. Most Childminders provide care on their own and from their homes which may not be accessible.
- 9.14 The Wraparound Funding Programme intends to expand the provision of wraparound childcare for children who have SEND or require additional support. To support this aim, the funding application process in Derbyshire requires providers to consider how the additional places will support children with SEND.

10. SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Families Information Service

- 10.1 The Families Information Service (FIS) offers support to any family caring for children aged 0-19, or up to 25 years for children or young people with SEND. It provides free, impartial information and guidance for parents, carers, practitioners, children, and young people on a wide range of services activities and events available in Derbyshire.
- 10.2 A commitment was made in the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report to develop and enhance FIS including the website and social media to improve parental and provider engagement. This was undertaken as part of a wider programme in response to the childcare expansion and the wraparound programme.
- 10.3 The FIS service now offers better support to parents/carers navigating this new landscape. With the increase in demand for information and guidance, FIS have undertaken a number of steps to support parents/carers, these include:
 - New publicity campaign for the new childcare offers including a targeted social media campaign explaining the childcare expansion and how families can benefit.
 - Increased the Facebook audience and engagement with regular posts, interactive content and partnering with larger accounts helping to reach a wider audience and engage with more families and providers.
 - Relaunched the FIS website with information about the childcare expansion, including the different stages of the roll out, eligibility criteria and how to apply.
 - Published easy-to-read leaflets that provide an overview of the key dates for the childcare expansion roll out, eligibility criteria, and application steps.
 - Worked with childcare providers highlighting important dates of the roll out, and offering guidance on how they can support families in accessing the new offers.
 - Supplied early years' entitlements marketing materials to childcare settings, doctors' surgeries, libraries, schools and PVI settings.
 - Attended networking, recruitment and family events to directly engage with parents, answering questions and providing information and guidance on the childcare schemes and the benefits to families and how this can support parents into work.

- 10.4 Since the cost-of-living crisis the local authority has been actively promoting money saving schemes which include information on help with childcare costs and support for families to help ensure all Derbyshire residents and employees are aware of what support with childcare is available. Further details can be found on the Derbyshire website under the Cost-of-Living section.
- 10.5 Further research and consultation with parents and carers will be undertaken to identify if childcare needs are being met and identify any trends in demand.

Affordability

- 10.6 In addition to the early years' entitlements for pre-school children, other government schemes to support families to meet the cost of childcare are available, such as Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare. These can help parents/carers with older children to reduce the cost of wraparound childcare.
- 10.7 Families can find further information on these schemes through FIS and the Derbyshire website by searching: <u>Help paying for childcare</u>.
- 10.8 The <u>Childcare Choices Website</u> and the <u>Childcare Choices Communications</u>

 <u>Toolkit</u> are regularly circulated to providers through several mediums including email, Twitter and the Early Years Business Bulletin to encourage them to promote the childcare offers available to their families.

11. SUSTAINABILITY

- 11.1 Sustainability is key to ensuring the ongoing sufficiency of early education and childcare places. Some of the largest risk factors for providers include:
 - Changes in funded early years entitlement
 - Increased operational costs (rent, energy, food, staffing)
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Changes in demand
- 11.2 The local authority no longer has access to sustainability funding to support providers struggling financially, however business support for providers can be accessed through the Early Years' Service.
- 11.3 The local authority also regularly promotes the additional funding available to providers such as Early Years Pupil Premium, deprivation funding or Disability Access Fund to ensure settings are claiming all the funding available and help with sustainability.

Changes in demand

- 11.4 Falling birth rates since 2012, the knock-on effects of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and recruitment and retention issues have impacted on the sustainability of providers nationally and locally.
- 11.5 Changes in working patterns following the pandemic, such as working from home may allow parents/carers more flexibility in terms of time and location which can also impact on demand.
- 11.6 In previous years working parents had to pay for all their childcare for children under 3, and as a result may have used informal childcare (relatives, friends) where possible to minimise any childcare costs. From April 2024 it is likely that demand for childcare has and will continue to grow as parents/carers become aware they can access funded childcare. The Governments initial estimations are that take up for the entitlement expansion is 66%, however Derbyshire will continue to monitor this as it is likely this may increase as the offer becomes embedded.

Recruitment and retention

- 11.7 Recruitment and retention of early years and childcare staff will impact on the sustainability of settings. Issues with recruitment can result in providers having to reduce the number of places they can offer.
- 11.8 In Summer 2023 a survey undertaken by the EYSS found that 26% of funded early years providers cited the recruitment and retention of staff as their main concern in respect of the continuity of the setting, with a further 26% stating this was their second largest concern.

- 11.9 Despite these issues, the survey results found that 83% of respondents indicated that they were confident or reasonably confident that they could continue to run for the next 12 months.
- 11.10 The Early Years Service actively promotes national materials and recruitment campaigns to support early years retention and recruitment in the sector including the Do Something Big Campaign

Future planning

- 11.11 The new government elected in May 2024 has committed to the previous government's childcare expansion plan but has also pledged to create 100,000 additional childcare places and more than 3,000 new nurseries through turning unused classrooms in existing primary schools into nurseries.
- 11.12 In addition the current government intend to provide free breakfast clubs in every primary school. The funded breakfast clubs aim to improve children's learning and development, provide opportunities for children to play, learn and socialise at the start of the school day and are key to tackling the rise in behavioural challenges and numbers of children missing school.
- 11.13 The local authority will continue to implement current childcare expansion initiatives including the Early Years Capital funding and the Wraparound Programme Funding to support the creation of new places. Whilst it is currently too early to report on the implementation and outcome of either programme this will be a priority in the coming year.
- 11.14 There is some capacity of early years places in Derbyshire to meet the increased demand that is expected from the final stage of the expansion in 2025 sufficiency of early years childcare in Derbyshire but further creation of places is underway.
- 11.15 From November 2024 greater flexibility to childminding registrations will be introduced and is intended to enable childminders to expand their business more easily and help tackle some of the known issues the workforce face such as feeling isolated. It is also seen as a solution to those who have limitations on using their property as a childcare setting.

12. ACTIONS

- 12.1 The Local Authority will continue to manage the childcare market in Derbyshire to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, suitable childcare is available to every parent/carer who needs it by undertaking the following:
 - Further analysis and monitoring of the impact of the expansion of entitlement will be required over the next year including further investigation into the districts showing a deficit of early years funded places and implementation of market stimulation strategies where this is required to increase supply of places.
 - Ongoing monitoring and investigation will continue to take place throughout the year where sufficiency or sustainability issues are indicated in any of Derbyshire's localities.
 - Continue to roll out the Early Years Expansion Capital and Wraparound Programme funding within the DfE timescales.
 - Undertake parental consultation to determine if parental needs are met in relation to both early years entitlement and wraparound provision, identifying demand for holiday childcare and irregular hours.
 - Further develop and enhance the Families Information Service including the website and social media to improve parental and provider engagement.
 - Maintain current systems of support for providers to enable them to deliver high quality provision and meet the requirements within the EYFS, including targeted support for new provision created through the expansion to early years programme.
 - Continue to develop the role and direction of the Early Years Strategic Board and subsequent monitoring systems.

Appendices

Amber Valley District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot October 2024

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	76 %	Holl overy Seith Vingfield Oak of type Savawick Seasily Seasily Surawick Seasily Somerous	
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	72 %	Amber Valley Use Shorts Use Affects Use A	
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	88%	Forkering All Parkeyorth Charles and All Parkeyo	
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	52 Childminders 17 Day Nurseries 14 Pre-Schools 1 Independent School 19 Schools, Academies & Governor run		
A	Potential risk factors	 Current deficit of 3- & 4-year-old places Overall insufficient funded places in district which could be exacerbated in September 2025 		
?	Actions required	 YES Further investigations will be undertant to identify localised areas of sufficient concern and places created where needed. 		

Bolsover District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	77%	Shull Shuttlewood Creswell		
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	63%	Bolsover many Langwith Vale Card to Langwith Vale Card to Langwith Junction Langwith Junction Langwith Junction Langwith Junction State St		
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	88%	Hely on Hely of the Normanion of Pixton		
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	11 Childminders 12 Day Nurseries 4 Pre-Schools 1 Independent School 19 Schools, Academies & Governor run			
A	Potential risk factors	 Low take up of assessment based 2-year-old entitlement in district Current deficit of 3- & 4-year-old places although sufficient places overall. Potentially more places will need to be created by September 2025 to meet additional demand. 			
3	Actions required	• Further investigations will be undertaken			

Chesterfield District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	71%	eand Hands
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	74%	Chesterfield New Moodfford Chesterfield New Moodfford STAVEL STAVEL Brimington
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	90%	The Physics
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	31 Childminders 18 Day Nurseries 4 Pre-Schools 1 Independent Schools 27 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	Current deficit of 3- & 4-year-old places although sufficient places overall. Potentially more places will need to be created by September 2025 to meet additional demand.	
?	Actions required	 YES Further investigations will be undertaken to identify localised areas of concern and places created where needed. 	

Derbyshire Dales District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	78%	And the second s
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	82%	Derbyshire Dales
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	91%	
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	9 Childminders 9 Day Nurseries 15 Pre-Schools 2 Independent Schools 12 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	Sufficient 9 to 11-month-old places and 3- & 4-year-old places currently but this may not be enough to meet additional demand required from September 2025	
3	Actions required	YES • Monitor sufficiency of 9 month to 11- month-old places and 3- & 4-year-olds places to ensure demand can be met in September 2025	

Erewash District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	69%	Eator / Transport Stanley West Marin
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	78 %	Breidsall Stanley Now Stanton Dale Abboy Stanton Risley Borrowash Breaston LONG EATON
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	90%	
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	39 Childminders 18 Day Nurseries 19 Pre-Schools 1 Independent Schools 16 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	Low take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds	
?	Actions required	YES Investigate reasons for low take up of 30 hours for 3- & 4-year-olds in district.	

High Peak District Childcare Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	88%	resistation of the second of t
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	91%	CIOSOP were the state of the st
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	92%	
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	36 Childminders 22 Day Nurseries 10 Pre-Schools 0 Independent Schools 18 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	There are no potential local risk factors specific to the High Peak district identified at present	
?	Actions required	NO Estimated oversupply of places in district currently to meet additional demand in September 2025	

North East Derbyshire District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	79 %	Inginen Indiana Indian
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	79 %	Common Side Morchal* Barlon Cot Out Out Out Out Out Out Out O
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	90%	Cally Sides Abbrer CROSS Finding Soethers CIAT Soethers CI
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	27 Childminders 17 Day Nurseries 11 Pre-Schools 0 Independent Schools 22 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	Sufficient 9 to 11-month-old places currently but this may not be enough to meet additional demand required from September 2025	
?	Actions required	YES • Monitor sufficiency of 9- to 11-month-old places to ensure demand can be met in September 2025	

South Derbyshire District Early Years Sufficiency Snapshot

††	Take up of 30 hours entitlement for 3- & 4- year-olds	80%	To any limited and the state of
2	Take up of 2- year-old assessment- based entitlement	91%	South Derbyshire South Derbys
	Take up of working family entitlement 9 months to 2 years	56%	100
	Number of Ofsted registered childcare providers	49 Childminders 24 Day Nurseries 16 Pre-Schools 3 Independent Schools 13 Schools, Academies & Governor run	
A	Potential risk factors	 low take up of working family entitlement for 9 months to 2-year-olds Current deficit of 3- & 4-year-old places although sufficient places overall. Potentially more places will need to be created by September 2025 to meet additional demand 	
?	Actions required	 YES Investigate reasons for low take up of working family entitlement Further investigations will be undertaken to identify localised areas of concern and places created where needed. 	