

South Gloucestershire Council

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT,
NOVEMBER 2024

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2024/25 (ALL WARDS)

Purpose of Report

To receive and approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024/25.

Recommendation

That Cabinet be recommended to:

- i) approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024/25*
- ii) approve the actions for the next 12 months as set out in paragraph 24 of the report.*

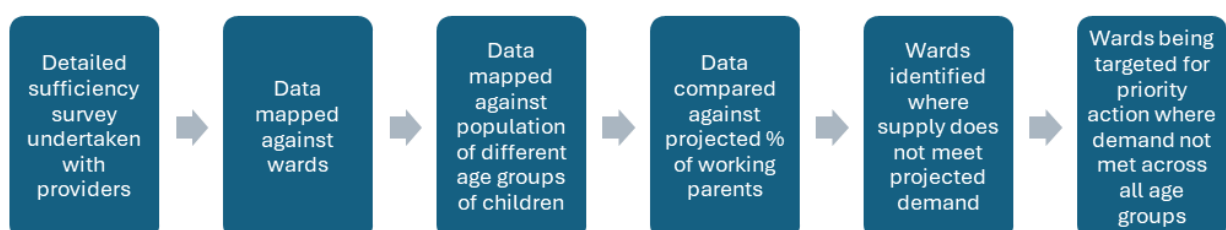
Policy

1. The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on English local authorities, so far as reasonably practicable to secure sufficient childcare in their area for working parents.
2. The DfE statutory guidance on Early Education and childcare ([Early education and childcare \(applies from 1 April 2024\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) sets out what local authorities should consider when assessing whether there is sufficient childcare in their area.
3. It states that to secure sufficient childcare places local authorities are required by legislation 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 to 14 or 18 for disabled children.
4. It identifies that to secure sufficient childcare places local authorities should consider:
 - what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means
 - the state of the local childcare market, including wraparound provision, the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists
 - the state of the local labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce
 - the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders or childcare providers registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise
5. Local authorities should:
 - encourage schools and other childcare providers in their area to offer childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays
 - aim to identify and remove barriers that prevent existing providers from expanding their provision and new providers entering the local childcare market if needed
 - encourage providers to take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them, for example, [the business sustainability tool kit](#)

6. Increased entitlements to funded childcare have been introduced incrementally. Local authorities now have a responsibility to allocate funding from DfE to fund childcare providers to deliver the following early years entitlements:
 - the eligible working family entitlement for 15 hours free childcare for children aged 9 months – 2yrs and 2yrs-3yrs and 30 hours for age 3yrs-4yrs
 - the eligible working family entitlement for 30 hours of children from 9 months to 2-3 years old (**from 1 September 2025**)
 - the 15-hour entitlement for 2-3 years olds for families receiving government support (disadvantaged)
 - the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
7. The DfE have recently announced their intention to support an increase of nursery places in schools and have launched a pilot scheme to support 300 new nursery classes across the country pending a wider roll out of 3,000 school-based nurseries. These could be school run or run by external early years providers and when implemented will have an impact availability of places and therefore sufficiency in the future.

Background

8. Most pre-school provision in South Gloucestershire is in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. As of October 2024, there are 132 groups and 126 childminders in South Gloucestershire. The local authority therefore has a key role in working with PVI providers to secure sufficient provision. Currently there are a limited number of nurseries in our primary school sector with only 5 currently providing this and a further 2 who have successfully lowered their age range but not yet admitted any nursery aged children.
9. Local authorities should report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. This report should be made available and accessible to parents and include:
 - a specific reference to how local authorities ensure there is sufficient childcare available 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
 - information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare by the age range of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision
 - details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed
10. To ensure the sufficiency of childcare we have undertaken a comprehensive review of the number of places in the local authority. It is essential that our projections are based on accurate information about the number of places that different providers are offering and not just the number of places that they are registered to offer.
11. We have also undertaken a review of the process to gather and interpret the data from early years providers. The aim being to ensure that the information used more accurately reflects what is happening rather than records used for registration purposes, for example, we have also ensured that we work with a complete return from all providers.
12. The following process has been undertaken so that we can assure ourselves of this.



The Issues

13. In June 2024 we conducted a detailed sufficiency survey to identify the exact number of early years places available from all provider types for each age range of children in every ward.

Ward	Places for children under 2	Places for children aged 2	Places for children aged 3 & 4
Chipping Sodbury & Cotswold Edge	44	53	134
Dodington	1	13	16
Frampton Cotterell	84	120	220
Yate Central	56	97	202
Yate North	58	63	84
Bitton & Oldland Common	18	34	108
Boyd Valley	54	132	224
Emersons Green	60	92	168
Hanham	54	141	216
Longwell Green	16	23	60
Parkwall & Warmley	48	119	260
Charfield	30	76	124
Pilning & Severn Beach	1	21	26
Severn Vale	18	82	124
Thornbury	64	115	178
Bradley Stoke North	120	141	318
Bradley Stoke South	6	26	78
Charlton & Cribbs	78	93	170
Filton	62	78	126
Patchway Coniston	32	84	116
Stoke Gifford	76	98	146
Stoke Park & Cheswick	82	93	144
Winterbourne	16	44	102
Frenchay & Downend	90	115	238
Kingswood	48	84	128
New Cheltenham	48	62	140
Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	52	144	164
Woodstock	2	10	24
TOTAL	1318	2253	4038

14. We used Area Health Authority (AHA) census data to identify the number of children in each age range this year and moving forward. This will be updated as new birth rates for each ward are received.
15. The national figure for employment (of eligible adults) is 74% Employment in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) and the uptake of funded entitlements in South Glos is between 60 and 65%. We therefore modelled the number of childcare places required at 65% of the population for each age range. This modelling is in appendix 1.

16. Each year the Local Authority measures supply and demand for early year's provision. An annual early year's census is taken, which measures the number of hours of funded education attended by individual children at each setting. The summer term is when there is greatest demand for places. In September parents are consulted on their requirements. The following sections describe the issues that have been identified in the last year.

Sufficiency of Places

17. We have used the data to calculate sufficiency of places based on what we will need from September 2025 so that we can plan for future provision. The data indicates that there will be insufficient places for children under the age of two in all wards of South Gloucestershire, if 65% of parents choose to take up a funded childcare place in September 2025. The full data on places is shown in **Appendix 1**.

18. The following wards have insufficient places for children of all ages, if 65% of parents choose to use a childcare place.

- Dodington
- Yate North
- Emersons Green
- Longwell Green
- Pilning and Severn Beach
- Bradley Stoke South
- Charlton and Cribbs
- Stoke Gifford
- Woodstock

There are plans in place to address these shortfalls and these are summarised in section 25.

19. According to the DfE analysis of their supply and demand data from September 2024 they indicate the following numbers of places are required for two-year olds.

April 2024	September 2024	September 2025
0 places needed	0 places needed	205 places for 2 and under

DfE data is based on a number of assumptions including forecasts of pupils numbers, Ofsted registered places rather than actual numbers, national childcare survey of parents that may not be representative for our local authority, assumption of number of hours required based on national uptake. Their estimate is that a 5% increase in places is needed for this age group to meet the estimated demand for September 2025.

Take-up of Places

20. For Summer term 2024, 72% of 3- and 4-year-olds are taking up either a place for the universal hours or the extended hours, or both.

21. The take-up rate for the 2-year-olds eligible under the more disadvantaged route for Summer 2024 is 78% (511 eligible, 401 taking up a place). This is an increase of 4% compared to summer term 2023. The number of children eligible has decreased, which could be due to more parents returning to work (minimum wage has increased but the income threshold criteria has remained the same, resulting in fewer children being eligible). The national figure is 74% of take-up for eligible 2-year-olds.

22. This level of participation has been achieved by the Council's outreach activities which include:

- letters, emails and direct phone calls,
- publicity campaigns to increase awareness of entitlement and encourage take up;
- promotion on the council website
- promotional events and
- by our Outreach Worker visiting events.

Quality

23. The DfE statutory guidance published in August 2014 (updated January 2024) states, 2-year-olds should be offered placement in a setting which is judged “good” or better, and 3- and 4-year-olds should be offered placement in a setting which is at least “requires improvement”.
24. The latest available Ofsted grading’s as at 14/10/2024 are shown in the tables below.

Grading	Groups	Childminders
Outstanding	17	8
Good	92	84
Requires Improvement	1	1
Inadequate	0	0
Total	109	103
% Graded Good or better	99%	99%

The following settings have not yet had a full Ofsted inspection.

Status	Groups	Childminders
Met Requirements	0	5
Not Met Requirements	0	2
Awaiting Grade	22	15
Total	22	21

25. 99% of South Gloucestershire early years providers offer a provision that is good or better as judged by Ofsted. This is above the national figure of 96% of childcare providers being judged as good or better.

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

26. Local authorities must ensure that all providers in the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors that they fund to the free entitlements are aware of the requirement on them to have regard to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25. And further LAs are encouraged to “...ensure that provision is inclusive and has considered the needs of all children, including those with SEND and additional needs ‘. Meeting the needs of children with SEND is included in our SEND briefing and guidance to all providers.
27. Settings who provide places for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) are eligible to receive Disability Access Fund (DAF) and this is promoted by LA officers in their frequent contact with Early Years Settings. Early Intervention Officers and Portage Home Visitors work alongside colleagues in health and Children’s Centres to enable all children to secure early years placements and access to funded places. This also supports early identification of SEND for all children.
28. A small number of applications are received each year for an education and health care plan (EHCP) needs assessment for a child in early years. South Gloucestershire also has an established Early Years Inclusion Support Fund (EYISF) which provides financial assistance to early years settings to meet the needs of children with SEND, without the need for an EHCP. This enables children to take up places sooner and supports practitioners to meet the needs of all children.
29. Transition Support Funding (TSF) is an additional funding stream which has been made available to support children with SEND to transition from pre-school into reception class in school. Funding is provided to the early years setting and the school to allocate additional resource to support individual children with this significant transition.

Affordability

30. The entitlement to 15 or 30 hours per week funded childcare for 9 months to 4-year-olds and eligible 2-year-olds is free at the point of delivery. Outside that entitlement, charges are set by the individual PVI providers. The Council has no direct control over the level of charges but the general position in South Gloucestershire is in line with other areas.
31. The number and distribution of providers means that there is, overall, a basis for reasonable charges. However, settings are increasing charges for optional extras that are allowable under government guidance. Settings are encouraged not to charge families that cannot afford to pay for these extras (low-income families in receipt of 2-year-old funding and children in receipt of pupil premium). The guidance around charging may change under the new government but this information has yet to be released.

Parents'/providers' views of childcare provision

32. In October 2024, the Council issued a sufficiency questionnaire to parents and carers via childcare settings, social media and resident newsletters. A total of 269 responses were received of which 98% reported that they use formal childcare in term time. The key issues in the parental responses were:
- 57% of responses (154 responses) reported that childcare arrangements fully meet their needs. 39% (106 responses) said their childcare arrangements partially meet their needs and 3% reported their needs not being met (9 responses).
 - 52% of responses reported it was easy to find the childcare they wanted (139 responses). 45% (120 responses) said it was difficult to find the childcare they wanted and 3% (8 responses) said it was not possible.
 - When asked how childcare could be improved, parents/carers referred to issues of flexibility, affordability and childcare being offered at different times of the day. A full range of responses is provided in **Appendix 2**.
 - Most parents responding, (39%, 239), required childcare to enable them to work in full- or part-time employment, and (2%, 10) to enable them to study or train. (31%, 190) of the 269 who responded also required childcare to allow their child to develop social and learning skills and (24%, 144) to prepare their child for school.

Activity to increase sufficiency in 2023 to 2024

33. The areas of work identified last year to improve the flexibility and ease with which parents/carers can find childcare are listed below with a progress update.

2023 /24 Target	Success indicator	Progress
Increase the number of settings, schools and academies offering early years provision.	Increase in number of schools offering early years provision	Working with local schools, 2 have now successfully lowered age range and others are preparing to consult with their community to explore this further. Capital funding of £155,000k has been awarded to enable 4 settings to offer 137 more places for children under the age of three. Direct contact with all EY settings in wards with insufficient childcare places across all age ranges to explore expansion opportunities.
Increase early years places in priority areas including areas where there are higher numbers of deprived pupils or those with SEND.	Sufficiency survey shows increases in places where capacity is low and where there are more SEND and pupil premium pupils.	Detailed mapping and demand survey has been completed with all EY providers and with residents. An expansion plan has been developed, phase one targeting wards with insufficient places in all ages ranges has been completed and 3 capital projects are ongoing with 1 completed.

		Phase 2 of the plan is now beginning to target wards with insufficient places for 2-year-olds.
Develop a provider guide on options and models of childcare provision	Guide produced and circulated to providers	Briefing delivered to headteachers and MAT leads to present process and information. A national guide is now being produced to support increasing nursery places and will be shared. Provider guide is under development to supplement the national guide and will be published in November.
Maintain high take-up of places	Increase in take-up of provision for working families is in line with new entitlement expectations.	Outreach worker continues to target families in community venues and by direct contact.
Improve quality of provision in early years	Number of settings judged good or better by Ofsted is at least in line with national.	SSOs and EIOs continue to work with all EY providers to support them to develop practice. Settings that are judged less than good receive additional support. Training initiatives and projects are in place to improve quality of provision.
Publicise childcare options to families	Website information checked and confirmed as accurate at 6 monthly intervals.	This is ongoing and information updated as required.

Activity to increase sufficiency for September 2024 – August 2025

34. The following table summarises the key activity to increase sufficiency of places for the next academic year.

Target	Actions / Activity	Success indicator
Strategically plan for increase of early years places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up task group to include representatives from the capital, planning, projects commissioning, admissions and early years teams to ensure strategic oversight of early years place planning. Continue to plan for early years places required where there are new housing developments. Liaise with neighbouring local authorities to plan for cross-border sufficiency. 	Meetings of group inform strategic planning for early years places
Increase EY provision to meet sufficiency requirements in identified wards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular briefings to ensure schools and EY providers understand the sufficiency data at ward level across the LA. Work with MAT leaders, local schools and academies to help establish early 	Increase in number of 30-hour places for children in priority wards.

	<p>years provision on more school sites if appropriate, in line with new DfE initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove barriers to provision through supporting accommodation changes by allocating remaining capital funding. Monitor the increasing need linked to housing development. 	<p>Capital funding allocated to increase number of places for children 0-3 in all wards.</p>
<p>Increase provision for under 2s in all wards to meet expanded entitlement offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular funding panel meetings to allocate capital funding to develop new places for children aged under 2. Expansion plan developed for SSOs and EYAs to target provisions where expansion is needed 	<p>Sufficient places for all children under the age of 2 for all working parents who want it.</p>
<p>Increase nursery offer on school sites to meet DfE agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with MAT and school leaders and develop a strategy to support expanding places that limits the impact on other providers and ensures increase of 3- to 4-year-old places without having unintended consequences on provision of other age groups. Provide support for schools who want to provide early years childcare in line with the guidance currently being produced by DfE. Support schools and academies to extend their age range to accommodate nursery provision in the wards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doddington Yate North Emersons Green Longwell Green Pilning and Severn Beach Thornbury Charlton and Cribbs Stoke Gifford Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Woodstock 	<p>Sufficient nursery places for all children aged 3 and 4.</p>
<p>Improve recruitment and retention of early years workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote early years as a career pathway through working with schools and colleges. Facilitate a recruitment crisis working group, exploring work experience and placement opportunities for young people completing GCSEs. Work with the job centre and training providers to promote the range of career opportunities in early years. Continue to promote and offer CHIC (introductory course for people interested in becoming a childminder) and promote childminding through attendance at local community and baby groups. 	<p>Increase in the number of childminders registered across the LA.</p> <p>Increase in number of settings offering work placement / experience opportunities.</p> <p>Decrease in number of settings reporting concerns around recruitment.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of setting up a childminder agency. 	
Apprise DfE of any factors impacting on South Gloucestershire ability to fulfil expanded entitlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure feedback is provided to DfE at monthly meetings about emerging issues impacting on sufficiency Inform DfE by letter of factors impacting on South Gloucestershire's ability to provide sufficient places to meet the expanded entitlements 	DfE fully aware of contextual factors impacting on delivery of sufficiency duty.

Summary of Sufficiency Position

35. We now have a more accurate picture of the sufficiency of early years places. The total number of childcare places in South Gloucestershire has increased since last year. It should be noted that last year's figures were based on Ofsted registered number of places that providers could accommodate rather than actual figures.

	2023	2024
Under 2	430	1318
Age 2	1708	2253
Age 3 – 4	5022	4038
Total	7,160	7,609

36. We have estimated the number of places needed based on the population data from 2023. The figures for age 3-4 represent a small drop in population of 3- and 4-year-olds (115 children). The larger drop could indicate fewer families of this age group require places or parents are working more flexibility and require fewer childcare sessions.

37. DfE data estimates that a 5% increase in two-year old places (205 places) is needed to meet the demand for September 2025. This estimate is based on a number of assumptions. Given the increased number of places that have already been created for this age group, we are on track to meet this requirement.

38. The data indicates that there are insufficient places for children under the age of two in all wards of South Gloucestershire, if 65% of parents choose to take up a funded childcare place. 9 wards have insufficient places for children of all ages.

39. There are planned actions in place to improve sufficiency in order to be able to provide sufficient places when all the entitlements are operational in September 2025.

40. 99% of early years providers in South Gloucestershire are high quality having been judged by Ofsted to be good or better.

41. Most parents responding to our survey identified that childcare arrangements fully or partially met their needs.

Consultation

42. Early years census forms were completed by 196 childcare providers with details of the number of places available at their settings and a headcount of the number of children

claiming funding for their funded early education entitlement in week beginning 15 January 2024.

43. In October 2024, all providers were contacted and asked to inform parents of the online childcare sufficiency questionnaire. 269 responses were received.

Equalities Considerations

44. This report sets out the legal framework/statutory requirement established by Government to require local authorities to secure sufficient childcare in their area for children aged 9 months to 4-year-olds, including less advantaged 2-year-olds. As the statutory guidance points out, "Evidence shows that higher quality provision has greater developmental benefits for children, particularly the most disadvantaged children, leading to better outcomes". The intention is to mitigate disadvantages, break the 'cycle of deprivation', narrow gaps in children's attainment and provide a stronger basis for entering the primary phase of education.

45. This report confirms that sufficient places have been secured, including the places required for 2-year-olds from low-income households. The equality duty also requires that the Council, in securing childcare places, ensures that the equalities practices of PVI providers are appropriate. This is achieved in three ways: first, through the Provider Agreement between the Council and the providers of early year's places; secondly through the visits the team make to providers and thirdly, through the Ofsted inspection framework.

46. The arrangements for funded early education impact positively upon the equality's agenda within South Gloucestershire. Funded early education for 2-year-olds at risk of disadvantage and those with SEND (including those in receipt of disability living allowance), alongside Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for children aged 9 months to 4-year-olds at risk of disadvantage works to narrow the gap in educational achievement. Additional funding is available through a range of sources for vulnerable families to enable them to access early education; Disability Access Fund (DAF), Early Years Inclusion Support Fund (EYISF), Transition Support Fund (TSF) and Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) alongside their universal 15 hours per week entitlement.

Climate and Nature Decision Wheel – Childcare Sufficiency Report



Ratings	
1	Long lasting significant negative impact
2	Short term or limited negative impact
3	No known Impact
4	Short term or limited positive impact
5	Long lasting significant positive impact

Climate and Nature Decision Wheel Supporting Statement

47. Greenhouse gas emissions – 4 short term or limited positive impact.

The provision of local childcare places enables travel choices, making active travel to childcare possible and enabling reduced carbon emissions from shorter journeys. Efforts across the area to increase local childcare places could lead to greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

48. Air quality – 4 short term or limited positive impact.

The provision of local childcare places enables travel choices, making active travel to childcare possible, and therefore improving localised air quality. Efforts across the area to increase local childcare places could lead to greater improvements in localised air quality.

49. Adaptation and Resilience – 2 short term or limited negative impact

The local impacts of a changing climate will have growing impacts on the facilities where childcare is provided. It is recommended that the childcare sufficiency work include consideration in future of the potential local impacts of a changing climate and the impact on provision.

Risk Assessment

Financial Implications (includes tax implications such as VAT)

50. Funding for free early education places based on entitlement for 9 months to 2-year-old, 2-year-olds, and 3 and 4-year-olds is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant Early years Block. The 2024-25 budget to fund pre-school providers for the delivery of free early education is as follows:

Early Years Block Budget (July 2024 Funding Announcement)	£000
9mths to 2 year olds	4,572
2 year old place funding	7,593
3 and 4 year olds place funding	18,016
Deprivation funding	208
Early Years Inclusion Support funding (Early Years Block element only)	391
Early years pupil premium	221
Early years disability access fund	188

51. This budget is allocated based on the latest DSG Funding announcement using January 2024 census data and estimates for the extended entitlements being rolled out from September 2024. During 2024/25 the funding will be updated using the January 2025 census data for the period September 2024 to March 2025. Funding will also be updated to reflect the actual take up of the extended free entitlements for 9mths to 2 years and Age 2 – 3 year olds of 30 hours per week.

52. Based on current projections there is sufficient budget to meet the expected nursery placement demand for 2024/25.

53. The budget for the Early Years Inclusion Support Funding which supports children with SEND (para 20) is joint funded from the Early Years Block and High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. The total budget for 2024/25 is £1,269k (£391k from Early Years Block and £878k from High Needs Block).

Caroline Warren – Finance Business Partner - 01454 863153

Legal Implications

54. The legal duties of the local authority are set out in the body of this report along with references to the Statutory guidance, Early education and childcare, updated 1 January 2024. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Maria Sweetman - Solicitor – 01454 864229

Human Resources Implications

55. There are no Human Resources implications that arise directly from this report.

Sharon Johnson – HR Strategic Lead – 01454 863089.

Climate Emergency and Environmental Implications

56. Childcare sufficiency has been assessed using the council’s Climate and Nature Decision wheel, as shown in the Issues section of the report. The wheel identified the positive impacts of sufficiency of local childcare places on greenhouse gas emissions and localised air quality. As far as possible, local childcare provision should be enabled so that it is available on a local and accessible basis without the need for extended travel. This is in order to reduce the emissions generated from associated journeys, walking and cycling to childcare provision should be promoted. This in turn helps to reduce the air quality impact of journeys

made for this purpose and to support and encourage active travel to and from facilities. It is crucial that the activities identified around generally increasing capacity, increasing capacity in marginal areas and the continued monitoring of increased need are carried out. Going forward, work should focus on ensuring that childcare places across the area match the distribution of demand and that the local impacts of a changing climate are considered in relation to the future provision of childcare places as recommended in the Decision Wheel assessment.

Lucy Rees – Senior Environmental Policy & Climate Change Officer – 01454 862224

Social Implications

57. The equalities sections of this report detail the intention is to mitigate disadvantages, break the 'cycle of deprivation', narrow gaps in children's attainment and provide a stronger basis for entering the primary phase of education. This will support the evidence base that access to quality early education increases work force participation and increased health and wellbeing which are all aims across South Glos in relation to early intervention and prevention to reduce the chances of our young person's becoming victims of crime.

58. This report confirms that sufficient places have been secured, including the places required for 2-year-olds from low-income households and those with SEND. This supports the overarching approach across South Glos to increase educational attainment and reduce economic inequalities to support our young people to remain in education, employment or training and reduce the likelihood of them becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

Amie Copley - Built Environment Enforcement Manager – 01454 868551

Economic Implications

59. There are no direct economic implications identified through the recommendations outlined within this report. However, given that most services are provided in the PVI sector, the Council must maintain a sustainable and effective commissioning role, ensuring the support and growth of that sector. A robust and expanding PVI sector offers employment opportunities and contributes to training and development, thereby benefiting the local economy."

Ian Steele – Business Investment & Digital Connectivity Manager – 01454 868202

Privacy Impact Assessment

60. Not relevant to this report.

Risks, Mitigations & Opportunities

61. Risks of not accepting the proposals include:

- Council inability to meet the defined requirements for child-care sufficiency
- Insufficient child-care being in place to meet the needs of parents
- Schools being unable to progress increasing the age range of their pupils in order to meet our sufficiency requirements

62. Some of the planned actions provide opportunities to increase local childcare for parents thus to reduce travel and aid conveniency for working parents.

Reasons for Decision

63. We recommend that the Council approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024/25 included in this report, so that this can be made available to the public and agree to the actions for the next 12 months as set out in paragraph 34 of the report.

Author

Chris Sivers, Executive Director, People Department

Departmental Contacts

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Samantha Gardner, Business and Finance Development Officer, 01454 862368

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Sufficiency data by ward

Appendix 2 – responses from parent/carer questionnaire regarding availability of places.

Appendix 1 - Sufficiency data by ward

Ward	U2 pop	U2 places	U2 @65%	2YO pop	2YO places	2YO @65%	3YO pop	4YO pop	3 & 4YO places	3 & 4YO @65%
Chipping Sodbury & Cotswold Edge	163	44	-62	92	53	-7	105	88	134	9
Dodington	236	1	-152	141	13	-79	109	125	16	-136
Frampton Cotterell	237	84	-70	116	120	45	137	144	220	37
Yate Central	152	56	-43	85	97	42	84	93	202	87
Yate North	350	58	-170	193	63	-62	189	178	84	-155
Bitton & Oldland Common	176	18	-96	74	34	-14	83	99	108	-10
Boyd Valley	164	54	-53	70	132	87	78	83	224	119
Emersons Green	492	60	-260	269	92	-83	248	251	168	-156
Hanham	238	54	-101	116	141	66	128	117	216	57
Longwell Green	182	16	-102	94	23	-38	104	96	60	-70
Parkwall & Warmley	182	48	-70	90	119	61	93	89	260	142
Charfield	91	30	-29	53	76	42	55	53	124	54
Pilning & Severn Beach	102	1	-65	60	21	-18	62	48	26	-45
Severn Vale	165	18	-89	83	82	28	80	95	124	10
Thornbury	308	64	-136	175	115	1	174	183	178	-54
Bradley Stoke North	191	120	-4	96	141	79	116	109	318	172
Bradley Stoke South	174	6	-107	72	26	-21	113	85	78	-50
Charlton & Cribbs	314	78	-126	173	93	-19	163	155	170	-37
Filton	192	62	-63	98	78	14	103	102	126	-7
Patchway Coniston	146	32	-63	64	84	42	68	83	116	189
Stoke Gifford	293	76	-114	171	98	-13	193	149	146	-76
Stoke Park & Cheswick	132	82	-4	62	93	53	71	61	144	58
Winterbourne	131	16	-69	67	44	0	80	72	102	3
Frenchay & Downend	262	90	-80	124	115	34	145	162	238	39
Kingswood	216	48	-92	102	84	18	114	95	128	-8
New Cheltenham	227	48	-100	96	62	0	126	97	140	-5
Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	313	52	-151	163	144	38	176	177	164	-65
Woodstock	232	2	-149	117	10	-66	111	111	24	-120
TOTAL	6061	1318	-2622	3116	2253	228	3308	3200	4038	-192

U = under / Pop = population / YO = Year Old

@65% is the number of +/- places we have if 65% of eligible children take up a place

A negative number indicates insufficient places in that ward.

Appendix 2 - Responses from Parent/carer Questionnaire about Availability of Places

Do your childcare arrangements for this child currently meet your needs?

Fully	154	57%
Partially	106	39%
No	9	3%
Total	269	100%

How easy was it for you to find the childcare you wanted for this child?

Easy	139	52%
Difficult	120	45%
Not Possible	8	3%
No Response	2	1%
Total	269	100%

How could the childcare provision you use for this child be improved? (Please tick all that apply)

Different type of childcare provider	13	3%
Available at a different time of day	36	10%
More flexible sessions	54	14%
More affordable	67	18%
Closer to home/work/study/school attended by sibling	24	6%
Better suited to my child's additional needs	2	1%
Better suited to my child's cultural needs	4	1%
Better quality	8	2%
Other	13	3%

Further summarised comments made by respondents included the following:

- Found childcare easily locally (63)
- Concerns about long waiting lists at some providers (61)
- Lack of provision in the area (54)
- Successfully accessed a place by applying early (47)
- Not enough provision for working families e.g. working hours (36)
- The cost of childcare is too high (37)
- More flexible sessions and extended opening hours are needed (including options for shift workers) (19)
- Went to provision where sibling attended (16)
- Need more after school//holiday/breakfast clubs or more early years providers to be open during school holidays (13)
- Insufficient provision close to home (12)
- Nurseries closing due to recruitment and retention issues (9)
- Difficulty finding childcare in more rural areas (7)
- Provision meets needs (5)
- Need more under 2 places (5)
(this refers to provision beyond the funded entitlements)
- Difficulty finding list of providers on council website (5)

- Parents reduced working hours to care for child as no provision (5)
- Accessed provision close to sibling's school (3)
- Funding entitlements have a lot of additional charges (3)
- Too many new housing developments in the area (2)
- More support for disabled parents (2)
- Nannies should be able to accept the funded entitlements (2)
- Funded childcare should be available to more families (2)
- Need to use multiple providers to get required provision (2)
- Childminders closing (1)
- Need more pre-school aged places (1)

When you were choosing your childcare provider was your preferred setting criteria either:

Criteria

Close to Home	214	80%
Close to Place of Work/Study	12	4%
Close to School Attended by Sibling	25	9%
Close to School Attended by Child	6	2%
No Response	12	4%
	269	100%