

South Gloucestershire Council

**REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT
OCTOBER 2021
CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2021/22 (ALL WARDS)**

Purpose of Report

1. To receive and approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021/22.

Recommendations

2. To approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021/22.
3. To approve the actions for the next 12 months as set out in paragraph 23 of the report.

Policy

4. Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents that are studying or training in their area. Under that Act, local authorities were originally required to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years. South Gloucestershire carried out the required assessments in 2008 and 2011.
5. Since 2013 an annual report is to be made available and accessible to parents. In subsequent guidance, the manner of reporting is no longer prescribed. Local authorities are therefore able to determine the appropriate level of detail in their report. This guidance has now been included in the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities dated June 2018, which sets out the areas the report should include. This is the ninth annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report for South Gloucestershire.
6. The local authority's duty to assess sufficiency of childcare provision was repealed under Section 86 of the Children and Families Act 2014. However the local authority still has a duty to secure sufficient childcare and to provide information and advice about that childcare to elected council members, parents and childcare providers. This report enables the local authority to demonstrate how it is meeting these duties.
7. The statutory guidance sets out what local authorities should take into account when assessing whether there is sufficient childcare in their area. This includes:
 - what is reasonably practicable in their area;
 - the state of the local childcare market, including 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 labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce;
 - the quality and capacity of childcare providers, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise;
 - information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
 - details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.
8. Local authorities are required to ensure that parents are provided with information about their child's entitlement to an early education and childcare options in this area so that they may take up provision. This includes:
 - entitlement to 15 hours of free provision for 3 and 4 year olds and some 2 year olds;

- an increased entitlement to 30 hours of free provision per week for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents;
- Tax Free Childcare;
- information on local provision and options;
- eligibility checking procedures for 2 year olds;
- eligibility checking procedures for early years pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds;
- information on the quality of providers based on Ofsted inspection.

Background

9. Free early education for all 3 and 4 years olds was increased to 15 hours per week in September 2010. From September 2013, this was extended to 2 year olds from low income households (based on entitlement to a range of income based benefits), children who are looked after by the local authority, have been through the care process, or have high level SEND.
10. With effect from September 2014, eligibility was extended to around 40% of 2 year olds (approximately 260,000 children nationally). With effect from September 2017, the entitlement to free early education was extended to 30 hours per week for 3- and 4-year-old children of eligible working families. Tax Free childcare was also fully rolled out to parents of 3 and 4 year olds children in September 2017.
11. Pre-school provision in South Gloucestershire is almost entirely in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. The local authority therefore has a key role in commissioning provision and working with PVI providers to secure sufficient provision. As at July 2021 there were 138 groups and 168 childminders in South Gloucestershire making provision there is 1 temporary closure for building work.

The Issues

12. Each year the Local Authority measures supply and demand for early year's education provision. An annual early years census is taken, which measures the number of hours of free education attended by individual children at each setting. The summer term is when there is greatest demand for places. This summer term all settings have been asked submit data on take up of both free and funded places. In July Information is also gathered from OFSTED registrations and inspections; and parents are consulted on their requirements. The following sections describe the issues that have been identified in the last year.
13. **Sufficiency of Places:** Details of the number of places per 100 children by ward and age are provided at Appendix 1.1. It shows that there are now three wards where the level of provision is below 17 places per 100 children under 5 years of age. In respect of these, there are sufficient early years places within walking distance. This highlights the limitation of reporting sufficiency data at ward level. Details of sufficiency and availability of places in adjoining wards are as follows:
 - **Dodington** (14 places per 100 children): there is capacity in the adjoining wards Yate Central (56 places per 100 children) and Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold (65 places per 100 children);
 - **Yate North** (8 places per 100 children): there is capacity in the adjoining wards Yate Central (56 places per 100 children) and Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold (65 places per 100 children);
 - **Woodstock** (8 places per 100 children): there is capacity in the adjoining Parkwall & Warmley ward (67 places per 100 children).
14. In the 2020/2021 report, the Council identified five wards with fewer than 17 places per 100 children. Sufficiency of places has increased to reflect that the new nursery planned on the Charlton Hayes Development is now open. This takes the Charlton and Cribbs ward to 38 places per 100 children from 15 places per 100 children. Longwell Green Ward has increased capacity showing with 19 places per 100 children. Note: Each registered place

can accommodate two children at 15 free hours per week, so there is potential demand for 50 places per 100 3 and 4 year olds universal funding, plus 25 places per 100 extended hours for working families, plus 20 places per 100 two year olds.

15. **Take-up of Places:** A key priority for this academic year was to maintain the high take up of places by eligible 2 year olds. This reflects that participation rates reduced from 90% in Autumn/Spring terms 2019/20 to 75% in Summer 2020 owing to Covid-19 resulting in the number of children taking up a place reducing 467.
16. In the academic year 2020/21, participation rates have increased to average 530 per term, this is now 77% of eligible families on the DWP list due which has increased in the number of families that are potentially entitled to two year old funding. The take up continues to compare favourably to the national average participation rate which have reduced due to Covid and families being less willing to take-up provision. This is further referenced in paragraph 20 *Impact of the Pandemic*. This level of participation has been achieved by the Council's outreach activities which include mail shots and home visits, publicity campaigns to increase awareness of entitlement and encourage take up; these include the Council's website, use of social media, local advertising at local supermarkets and promotional events. Face to face out-reach work has not been possible due to Covid-19 restrictions. However this is planned to restart in the autumn term 2021.
17. **Quality:** Under DfE regulations published in August 2014, 2 year olds should be offered placement in a setting which is "good" or better, and 3 and 4 year olds should be offered placement in a setting which is at least "requires improvement".

The latest available Ofsted grading's as at 30/7/2021 are:

<u>Grading</u>	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Childminders</u>
Outstanding	22	18
Good	98	103
Requires Improvement	3	0
<u>Inadequate</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub Total	124	121
% Graded Good +	97%	100%

The following settings have not had full Ofsted inspection

Met Requirements	0	8
Not Met Requirements	0	2
<u>Awaiting Grade</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>37</u>
Sub Total	14	39

Total	138	168
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18. **Children with Special Educational Needs:** Specific work has been undertaken to target children with special or additional needs, including those entitled to Disability Living Allowance. An additional Disability Access Fund was introduced in 2017 to facilitate appropriate placements. There is liaison with colleagues in the SEN Team and Children's Centres and individual assistance with placements where needed. A small number of families apply each year for funding to meet additional needs identified by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC). Early years support officers have expressed concern that it takes 20 weeks to complete an EHC plan before any additional funding can be allocated. It is important to identify children for EHC plan assessment as early as possible to allow them to access additional needs funding for the whole of their early education. A new Early Years Inclusion Fund was introduced in 2017, as part of the Local Authority's Local Offer, to support children with lower level needs that do not meet the criteria for an EHC plan.
19. **Affordability:** The entitlements to 15 or 30 hours per week free childcare for 3 and 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 provider. The Council has no direct control over the level of charges but the general position in South Gloucestershire is in line with other areas. 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 for families that cannot afford to pay for these extras (low income families in receipt of two year old funding and children in receipt of pupil premium).

20. **Impact of the Pandemic:** There are no permanent closures of settings as a result of Covid. Since February 2020 to the end of May 2021, a total of 4 new settings have opened and 4 have closed with a net increase of 258 places. There is also a net increase of 9 childminders registered with Ofsted in this period. Temporary closures affected more than half of all settings initially in April 2020. This reflects that settings were open only for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. The Council was able to meet demand for places from these families and throughout the pandemic settings have re-opened in step with COVID measures. Throughout the pandemic, take-up of free places in SGC remained buoyant and is currently just 1% below pre-COVID levels. Further details of take-up of places is provided at **Appendix 2**.
21. The Local authority engaged with the Early Years provider Working Group throughout the pandemic particularly when considering DfE guidance on temporary amendments to funding arrangements during the pandemic. The government introduced a range of measures designed to ensure that settings continued to receive income for free places. The Local Authority has also supported eligible settings through the Small Business Support Grant facility and Local Authority Discretionary Grant for small businesses (43 settings applied for one or both grants and of those 34 were successful in obtaining one of these). The Local Authority continues to offer settings business advice and support specifically targeted to settings whose free entitlement funding levels do not appear to have recovered. The EY Sector are facing challenges in the recruitment and retention of staff to posts of all grades. These issues have been raised with the DfE.
22. **Summary of parents'/providers' views of childcare provision:** In June 2021, the Council issued a sufficiency questionnaire to parents and carers via childcare settings, Council outlets and other public offices. A total of 189 responses were received of which 156 (83%) use formal childcare (29, 15% use informal childcare). Key issues in the parental responses were:
- 59% of responses (112 responses) say that childcare arrangements fully meet their needs. 35% (67 responses) say their childcare arrangements partially meet their needs and 9% report their needs not being met (9 responses in total).
 - 75% of responses say it was easy to find the childcare they wanted (141 responses). 23% (43 responses) say it was difficult to find the childcare they wanted.
 - When asked how childcare can be improved, parents/carers refer to issues of Flexibility, affordability and childcare being offered at different times of the day. A full range of responses is provided at **Appendix 3**.
 - The majority of parents responding, (87%, 165), required childcare to enable them to work in full or part time employment, and 3%, 6) to enable them to study.
23. The areas of work identified below will help improve the flexibility and ease with which parents/carers are able to find childcare. These make up the key priorities to support the sufficient, flexible, affordable provision of childcare in South Gloucestershire.
- Assist parents find places for any displaced children as a result of temporary closures relating to Covid.
 - Aligned to the priorities contained in the Commissioning of Places Strategy and Small and Rural Schools Strategy, work in partnership with local schools to help establish Early Years Provision on school sites.
 - Develop and publish a guide for school partners to increase awareness and understanding of the various options and models of childcare provision and implications for governance, finance and accountability.

- Aligned to the priorities contained in the Early Years Strategy, work with the sector to support the recruitment, retention and development of staff.
- Encourage providers to be as flexible as possible with the session times that they offer to suit local demand across a wide range of opening hours throughout the year, including weekends and school holidays where appropriate.
- Continue work to maintain the high take up of places, particularly for eligible 2-year olds and those working families that are eligible for 30 hours per week.
- Monitor, and where possible increase the capacity available in areas where the sufficiency is marginal (this is likely to apply particularly to the Bristol fringe areas and to the impact of cross border take up places).
- Monitor the increasing need in areas of housing development and enable provision where necessary.
- Prioritise provision and placement for children with special and additional needs and those who are otherwise vulnerable.
- Work with providers to encourage eligible parents to register for early years pupil premium funding.

Consultation

24. Early years census forms were completed by 229 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 free early education entitlement in week beginning 18 January 2021.
25. In June 2021, all providers were contacted and asked to inform parents of the online childcare sufficiency questionnaire. There were also posts on Twitter and Facebook drawing attention to the questionnaire. 189 responses received.
26. Childcare providers were also asked to complete a questionnaire on take up of places in June 2021. All 136 settings completed the questionnaire and 115/165 responses were received from childminders.

Equalities Considerations

27. This report sets out the legal framework/statutory requirement established by Government to require local authorities to secure sufficient childcare in their area for 3 and 4 year olds and 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 youngest children". 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.
28. 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 two ways: first, through the Provider Agreement between the Council and the providers of early year's places and, secondly, through the Ofsted inspection framework.
29. It is anticipated that the arrangements for the foundation years and the eligibility criteria for entitlement to free early education will impact positively upon equalities within South Gloucestershire by putting in place a legal entitlement to free early education for disadvantaged 2 year olds, as well as 2 year olds with high needs SEND (including those in receipt of disability living allowance). Also for 3 and 4 year olds by providing additional early years support through pupil premium funding for disadvantaged children; as well as Disability Access Funding for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and Early Years Inclusion Fund to enable children with SEND to take up their universal 15 hours per week 3 and 4 year old entitlement.

Risk Assessment

30. The following sections include the outcome of a risk assessment and advice arising from this.

Financial Implications (includes tax implications such as VAT)

31. Funding for free early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant Early years Block. The 2021-22 budget to fund pre-school providers for the delivery of free early education is as follows:

	<u>£000</u>
2 year old place funding	1,413
3 and 4 year olds place funding	14,404
Deprivation funding	134
Inclusion funding	297
Early years pupil premium	55
Early years disability access fund	63

32. This budget is allocated based on the latest DSG Funding announcement using January 2020 census data. During 2021/22 further funding announcements are made which provide updates using the January 2021 and January 2022 census data. It is estimated that there will be sufficient budget to meet the expected nursery placement demand for 2021/22. However, there is a risk that demand for places may exceed projected levels. In this event, Covid funding has been identified by way of a contingency measure to help meet a shortfall if it occurs.

33. In the previous year 2020/21, a shortfall in funding was identified due to an error in the data submitted by settings for the census return in January 2019 and January 2020. Details of how the Department for Children, Adults and Health is dealing with the deficit have been reported to Cabinet in the outturn report 2020/21 and the quarterly monitor reports during 2021/22.

Caroline Warren – Finance Business Partner CAH Children – 01454 863153

Legal Implications

34. Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents or parents that are studying or training so far as is reasonably practicable, in their area. Section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient early years provision, free of charge at the point of use, for eligible children resident in their area. Local authorities must have regard to the early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities dated June 2018. This requires the local authority to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare.

35. The statutory guidance requires the report to set out how the local authority is meeting the duty to secure sufficient childcare and should include specific reference to how it is ensuring 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 aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care. The report should also contain information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

Maria Sweetman – Solicitor – 01454 864229

Human Resources Implications

36. There are no Human Resources implications that arise directly from this report. **Nicola Plant – Human Resources Business Partner – 01454 863093.**

Climate Emergency and Environmental Implications

37. As far as possible, 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. Work should focus on ensuring that childcare places across the area match the distribution of demand. **Lucy Rees – Senior Environmental Policy & Climate Change Officer – 01454 862224**

Social Implications

38. The provision and development of an effective and sufficient range of early year's education and childcare services is a key element in the Council's role in supporting the needs of children, parents, families and carers in relation to childcare, education, personal circumstances and employment. The report demonstrates both the overall level of provision in South Gloucestershire and a number of Areas for Improvement. Successfully addressing these will help reduce long term inequalities and have a positive social impact. **Robert Walsh, Head of Safe and Strong Communities, 01454 865818**

Economic Implications

39. Given that the majority of provision is in the PVI sector, there is a requirement for an effective and sustainable commissioning role for the Council including stimulating and supporting that sector. In relation to employment, a vigorous and expanding PVI sector provides jobs and opportunities for training and development. **Ian Steele – Business Investment & Digital Connectivity Manager – 01454 868202**

Reasons for Decision

40. The authority is currently meeting its statutory duty to secure sufficient places for early education and childcare. Work continues to ensure that there will be sufficient capacity available. This has depended, and will continue to depend, on the good provision made in the PVI sector and the partnership with the local authority in commissioning provision.

Author

Chris Sivers, Director for Children, Adults and Health

Departmental Contacts

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Colin Smith, Early Years & Schools Planning Officer, 01454 868978

Background Papers

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020/2021

Childcare and Educational Places in South Gloucestershire

Report produced: Mar 2021

Data taken on: 04/03/2021

Population by age group:

Age Group	No. of Children
Under 1	2994
1 year old	3255
2 years old	3299
3 years old	3386
4 years old	3433
5 - 11	24483
Total (0 - 11)	40850

Childcare and educational places:

Setting Type	No. of Settings	Total No. of Places	Number of Places by Age Group					
			Under 1	1 year old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 - 11
* Full Day Nursery Provision	125	5883	215	215	1249	2102	2102	0
* Nursery Units of Independent Schools	3	160	4	4	30	61	61	0
* Childminders	194	1150	89	89	236	118	118	501
* Sessional Nursery Provision	7	240	0	0	60	90	90	0
* LEA Nurseries	3	114	0	0	4	55	55	0
* Before School and Breakfast Clubs	10	353	0	0	0	0	0	353
* After School Groups	45	1219	0	0	0	0	0	1219
* Holiday Provision	30	867	0	0	0	0	0	867
Totals	417	9986	307	307	1579	2427	2427	2940

No. of Early Year places per 100 children:

Under 1	10
1 year old	9
2 years old	48
3 years old	72
4 years old	71
Total (0 - 4)	43

No. of Out of School places per 100 children:

Under 1	0
1 year old	0
2 years old	0
3 years old	0
4 years old	0
Total (5 - 11)	12

The No. of Early Year places includes Full Daycare places and Sessional places per 100 children

N.B. DfES target is 17 childcare places per 100 children, based on the national average.

Note that some places are allocated across two age groups. Figures are shown rounded to the nearest whole number.

The source of the childcare places data is Capita. The population data has two sources. The 0 - 4 population data comes from Area Health Authority figures (AHA2020). The 5 - 11 population data was produced by the Office for National Statistics in Sept 2020 and are derived from mid year estimates for wards in mid 2019 (experimental statistics). The 5 - 11 population is calculated by summing the individual populations for ages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

* Full Day places are provided for 0 - 4 year olds by: Full Day Nurseries, Nursery Units of Independent Schools and Childminders.

* Sessional places are provided for 2 - 4 year olds by: Sessional Nurseries and LEA Nurseries.

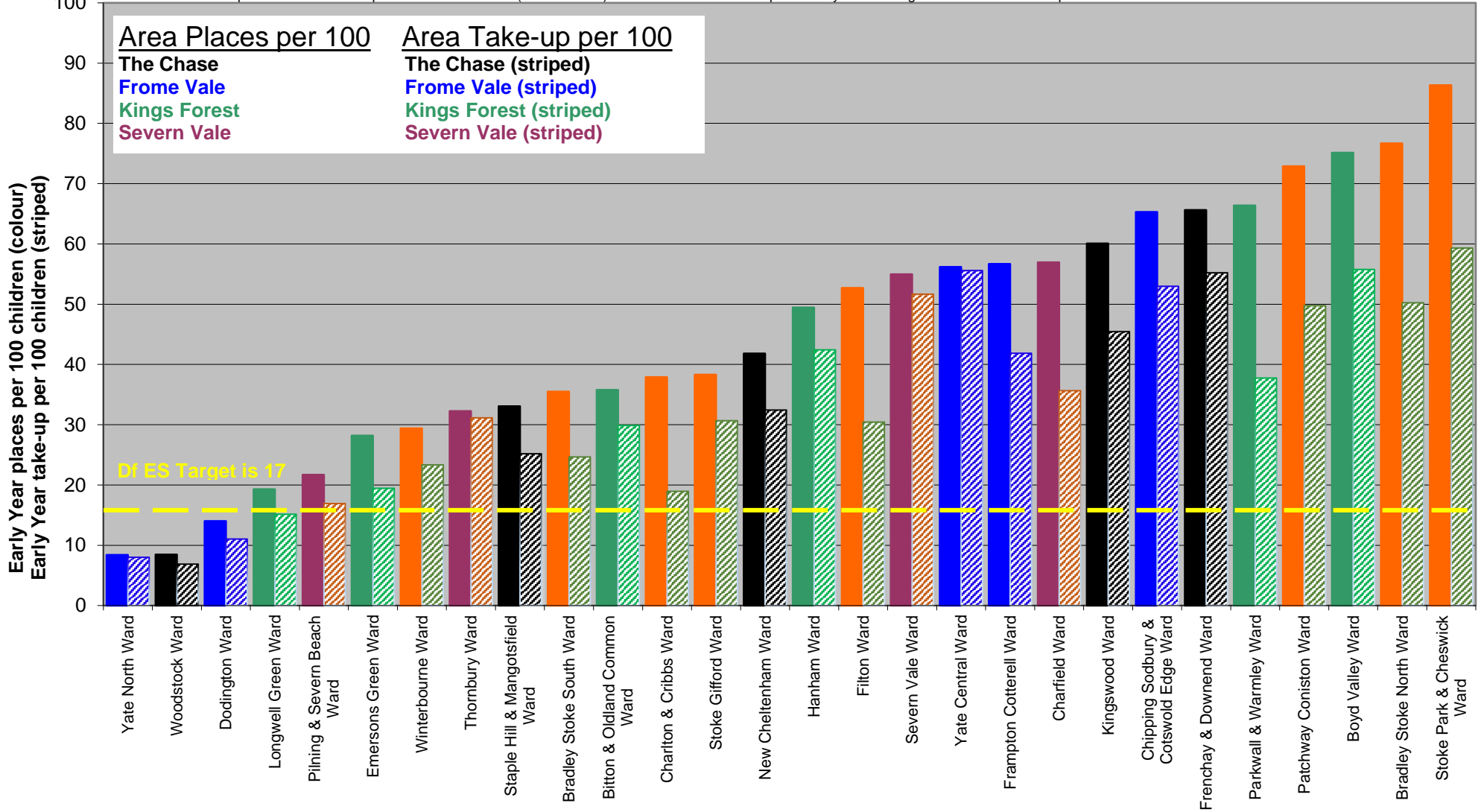
* Out of School places are provided for 5 - 11 year olds by: Before School and Breakfast Clubs, After School Groups, Holiday Provision, Nursery Units of Independent Schools and Childminders.

See Assumptions 2014 09 workbook for a list of assumptions relevant to this work

		Number of Early Year childcare places per 100 children					
		Total	Age in years				
			0	1	2	3	4
Total	South Gloucestershire	43	10	9	48	72	71
Area	The Chase	42	12	11	47	68	64
Area	Frome Vale	37	8	8	38	61	64
Area	Kings Forest	41	9	9	45	69	69
Area	Severn Vale	40	8	6	53	67	64
Area	Southern Brooks	52	13	11	57	88	84
Area	The Chase	42	12	11	47	68	64
Ward	Frenchay & Downend	66	27	30	75	92	93
Ward	Kingswood	60	15	13	65	98	91
Ward	New Cheltenham	42	10	8	45	79	66
Ward	Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	33	6	6	41	57	51
Ward	Woodstock	8	2	2	12	12	14
Area	Frome Vale	37	8	8	38	61	64
Ward	Chipping Sodbury & Cotswold Edge	65	16	15	58	111	109
Ward	Dodington	14	2	2	18	24	25
Ward	Frampton Cotterell	57	14	13	57	95	90
Ward	Yate Central	56	9	11	55	97	97
Ward	Yate North	8	4	4	14	9	12
Area	Kings Forest	41	9	9	45	69	69
Ward	Bitton & Oldland Common	36	8	8	30	65	63
Ward	Boyd Valley	75	18	16	76	142	108
Ward	Emersons Green	28	8	7	33	45	44
Ward	Hanham	49	9	7	58	79	84
Ward	Longwell Green	19	6	6	13	30	41
Ward	Parkwall & Warmley	66	12	15	86	109	114
Area	Severn Vale	40	8	6	52	66	63
Ward	Charfield	57	10	7	95	98	80
Ward	Pilning & Severn Beach	22	3	2	29	38	48
Ward	Severn Vale	55	9	6	78	84	87
Ward	Thornbury	32	8	7	39	56	49
Area	Southern Brooks	51	13	11	56	87	83
Ward	Bradley Stoke North	77	22	19	81	121	125
Ward	Bradley Stoke South	35	5	4	43	60	55
Ward	Charlton & Cribbs	38	10	9	38	63	73
Ward	Filton	53	11	11	59	91	85
Ward	Patchway Coniston	73	8	8	105	139	124
Ward	Stoke Gifford	38	17	12	41	59	53
Ward	Stoke Park & Cheswick	86	22	21	83	154	150
Ward	Winterbourne	29	4	3	36	56	48
Data Sources: Mar 21 and AHA 2020		Includes Full daycare and sessional places					

Childcare & Early Years Provision in South Gloucestershire

This chart shows the provision of childcare places as at 31 Mar 21 (Source iChIS). The number of childcare places may have changed since the chart was produced.



Take-up of Funded Hours During Pandemic

The take up of funded hours during each term compared to Pre Covid-19 confirms that demand for free childcare has remained high, with the percentage take up gradually getting back to normal. Two year old hours have the most significant decrease and Universal 15 hours have also reduced. However, there has been an increasing demand for Childcare from working families taking up the extended hours offer.

Hours Taken Up in 2020/21 Academic Year Compared to Pre Covid -19				
	Two Year Olds	15 Hours 3 & 4 Year Olds	Extended Hours 3 & 4 Year Olds	Total Funded Hours
	%	%	%	%
Autumn term 2020 compared to Autumn term 2019	87.85%	97.43%	103.39%	98.11%
Spring term 2021 compared to Spring term 2020	95.66%	97.04%	103.92%	98.97%
Summer Term 2021 compared to Summer term 2019	94.55%	96.13%	106.31%	99.00%

Responses from questionnaire with parents/carers

Do your current childcare arrangements meet your needs?

	Number of responses	
Fully	112	59%
Partially	67	35%
No	9	5%
No Response	1	1%
Total	189	100%

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

	Number of responses	
Easy	141	75%
Difficult	43	23%
Not possible	5	3%
No Response	0	0%
Total	189	100%

41. How could the formal childcare provision you use for this child be improved?

Different type of childcare provider	(5)
At a different time of day	(20)
More flexible sessions	(35)
More affordable	(53)
Closer to home	(9)
Closer to work	(5)
Closer to school attended by sibling	(3)
Better suited to my child's additional needs or disability	(1)
Better suited to my child's cultural needs	(4)
Better quality	(5)
Other	(8)

Further summarised comments made by respondents included the following:

- Accessed provision close to home, work or school attended by sibling (23)
- the cost of childcare is too high (34)
(this refers to provision beyond the free entitlements)
- more flexible sessions and extended opening hours are needed (54)
(including options for shift workers on 7 day work patterns requiring greater flexibility)
- Provision in the area is poor (3)
- Need more after school//holiday/breakfast clubs or more early years providers to be open during school holidays (12)
- Too many new housing developments in the area (1)
- Concerns about long waiting lists at some providers (5)
- Not enough childminders in the area (5)
- Successfully accessed a place by applying early (6)
- Provision meets needs (10)
- Provider recommended by child's physiotherapist (1)
- Went to provision where sibling attended (9)
- Insufficient provision close to home (2)
- Found childcare easily (1 in a rural area) (2)
- Difficulty finding list of providers on council website (1)
- Nursery closed due to building works and not enough provision in the area (1)
- Accessed provision close to sibling's school (1)

The tables below identify changes in requirements when choosing a childcare as a result of Covid 19.

Location

Criteria	Pre Covid		Following Covid		% Change
	Count	%	Count	%	
Close to Home	120	63%	129	68%	5%
Close to Place of Work/Study	22	12%	12	6%	-5%
Close to School Attended by Sibling	10	5%	9	5%	-1%
Close to Home & Close to Place of Work/Study	16	8%	10	5%	-3%
Close to Home & Close to School Attended by Sibling	13	7%	12	6%	-1%
Close to Place of Work/Study & Close to School Attended by Sibling	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Close to Home, Close to Place of Work/Study & Close to School Attended by Sibling	5	3%	5	3%	0%
No Response	3	2%	12	6%	5%
	189	100%	189	100%	