

Childcare Sufficiency Report 2021-2022



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Introduction

The Local Authority has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that sufficient childcare places are available across the borough for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

Under Section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 the L.A also has to secure free early education provision for each eligible young child in their area (i.e. all three / four year olds and eligible two year olds).

Having sufficient childcare means that families can find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities.

This assessment is presented by area councils; Central, Dearne, North, North-East, Penistone and South.

The information within the assessment informs the work of the Early Years' Service and wider L.A departments in meeting the duty.

Key Findings

- The number of 0-4's in the borough has reduced slightly this trend is due to continue.
- The number of early years children who have an EHCP or are receiving SEN support has significantly increased since 2019.
- There continues to be a significant amount of Housing development and business development across the borough.
- The number of early years registered providers and early years school provision stands at 247 the same as our last assessment. But the number of places has reduced significantly.
- The take up rate of 2,3 and 4 year old funding is 3% above the national average.
- Parents are finding the cost of childcare very challenging

Summary

There is still a good mixture of childcare across the borough and there are several vacancies to support those looking for childcare. Although, the places will not always be with their preferred choice, and they may have to travel to access the place.

There is the need to create further places particularly places that meet the needs of the new businesses that are setting up in the borough who require employees to work 'a typical' hours.

But priority should be firmly placed on the providers who are currently registered within the borough to assist them with the staffing and financial issues they are facing, so they can provide the places they are registered for and to stabilise the market.

Some of the sessional care currently being provided by early years settings and by schools, is not currently meeting the needs of working parents so work should be completed with these providers to support the sufficiency needs of the borough.

Due to the increase in children with special educational needs and disabilities, the increasing complexities of some of those needs and the potential lack of access due to the lower-than-average figures in the census, consideration should be given to whether there are barriers to access and how increasing needs can be met.

Our Plans for Childcare 22-23

To provide support for the current issues:

- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Financial pressures
- Supply of Childcare
- Promotion of Childcare Initiatives to support the cost of childcare

1.Demand for Childcare

Population of early years and school age children

There is an estimated total of 42,143 children aged 0-14 living in Barnsley (Office for National Statistics mid-2020 population estimates). The population is distributed fairly evenly across the different age bands, with 33.04% of total aged 0-4 years, 34.47% aged 5-9 years and 32.47% aged 10-14 years. These figures show a reduction overall in all age bands compared with the mid 2019 population estimates

.Area Council	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total Children 0-14
Central	3163	3108	3454	9725
Dearne	1648	1501	1513	4662
North	2410	2611	2132	7153
North East	2838	2987	3173	8998
Penistone	1162	1548	1198	3908
South	2705	2775	2217	7697
BARNNSLEY	13,926	14,530	13,687	42,143

Population estimates by area locality (mid-2020 estimates).

The highest number of children across all age bands live within the wards covered by the Central Area Council followed by the North-East Area Council and the South Area Council.

Population Projections

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2020-based population projections (released March 2020) estimate the child population (children aged 0-16 years old) is projected to decrease by 2026 by 1.1% to 42,677. Increases are forecast in the 10-14 age range and decreases in the younger age ranges.

In contrast, the total population is projected to increase by 5% in the same period

Child population forecast 2018 to 2026

Age range	2018	2023	% Change 2018-2023	2026	% Change 2018-2026
0-4	14,227	13,221	-7.1%	13,205	-7.2%
5-9	14,911	14,650	-1.8%	14,071	-5.7%
10-14	14,032	15,377	+9.6%	15,401	+9.8%
Child population 0-14	43,170	43,248	+1.8%	42,677	-1.1%
Overall population	245,199	253,424	+3.4%	257,456	+5.0%

Number of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Childcare providers have reported that 365 children who are accessing childcare have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), this figure includes those children accessing Out of School Clubs.

The table below shows the Early Years Census figures for Barnsley compared with the National figures of children accessing early years childcare who are either have an EHCP or are accessing SEN support.

Number of children by special educational needs (SEN) provision' for 15 hour entitlement, EHC plan and SEN support in Barnsley and England between 2019 and 2022

		England				Barnsley			
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
EHC plan	Number of registered two-year-olds	851	826	715	645	4	2	1	4
	Number of registered three- and four-year-olds	10,470	11,603	12,444	13,330	41	46	35	43
	Percent of two-year-olds registered	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%
	Percent of three- and four-year-olds registered	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%

SEN support	Number of registered two-year-olds	3,902	4,153	3,617	4,851	18	14	31	17
	Number of registered three- and four-year-olds	69,970	72,079	63,974	71,209	220	191	146	271
	Percent of two-year-olds registered	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%	3.6%	2.0%	1.7%	4.2%	2.1%
	Percent of three- and four-year-olds registered	5.5%	5.7%	5.3%	5.9%	4.0%	3.5%	2.7%	5.1%

The Early Year Census figures show that over the past four years the percentage of 2 year olds with an EHC is now in line with national figures at 0.5% but the figure for 3& 4 year olds is .3% lower. The figure of those on SEN support has dramatically increased for 3&4 year olds but is .8% lower than the national average. The two year old figure has significantly dropped since last year and is 1.5% below the national average.

Housing Projections and Business Growth

As reported in last year's assessment there are a number of large housing developments planned across the borough with numbers of homes being built increasing significantly from 2024 through to 2027 and beyond.

Statistics provided by School Place Planning

Area Council/Wards	No. of houses	Sum of 22/23	Sum of 23/24	Sum of 24/25	Sum of 25/26	Sum of 26/27	Sum of Total
Central	14	129	170	244	317	340	1,200
Dearne	13	98	179	291	207	219	994
North	14	114	188	201	275	205	983
North East	23	210	274	300	369	364	1,517
Penistone	11	131	125	144	117	117	634
South	24	112	372	450	482	367	1,783
Grand Total	99	794	1,308	1,630	1,767	1,612	7,111

Alongside, the planned residential developments are large business parks some already occupied by large employers who require a flexible workforce that can work non-standard hours, shifts, including evening, weekend and nights.

2. Supply of Childcare

There are a total of 199 active registered early years and childcare settings in Barnsley, and 55 maintained nursery classes, which is the same amount of settings as reported in the 2021-2022 Childcare Sufficiency Report. Collectively, these settings can provide a total of places 5786 (full time equivalent) but they are currently offering 5573 places. Settings that are not offering the full number of places they are registered for state that this is either due to recruitment issues, due to sustainability issues or both.

Childminding provision is available in all areas and day nursery provision in most wards. Wards with no day nursery provision include Dodworth and Stairfoot (Central area); Darfield (South area), although Darfield does have a Family Centre with a nursery. There is maintained nursery provision in all wards and areas.

CENTRAL	19	9	1			15
DEARNE	8	4	2			7
NORTH	30	5	1	3		11
NORTH EAST	28	11	1	3	2	9
PENISTONE	13	8	0	1	1	3
SOUTH	33	11	1			10
OVERALL	131	48	6	7	3	55

There are only three pre-school/sessional settings registered in Barnsley, two are located in the North East area and one in Penistone. All bar Penistone area has at least one family centre that offers sessional childcare places and family services, Penistone does not offer childcare but does offer family services. Preschool and sessional settings rely on government funding and do not meet the needs of most working parents therefore they are finding it increasingly difficult to survive.

Number of settings by type of provision – area and ward

Some childminder places may also be available for older children and 4 registered childminders did not contribute to the survey.

Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 247 early years childcare providers in our local authority, currently offering a maximum of 4,788 early years childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places	Number of places currently offered
Childminders	135	465	427
Nursery classes in schools	55	1,406	1,406
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries (inc 6 Family Centre Day Care)	57	2,917	2,742
Total	247	4,788	4,575

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table records places for children who are attending full time, or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example, one child may attend in the morning and one child may attend in the afternoon.

Area Council	0-4 Population 2022	Total Number of Childcare Places 2022	Places offered	Maintained	Total Maintained and Offered	Childcare Ratio on places offered 2022	Childcare Ratio 20-21
Central	3163	758	634	373	1007	0.32	0.34
Dearne	1648	235	192	176	368	0.22	0.24
North	2410	393	371	258	629	0.26	0.24
North East	2838	800	723	247	970	0.34	0.43
Penistone	1162	493	457	79	536	0.46	0.47
South	2705	724	613	273	886	0.32	0.36
BARNSELEY	13,926	3403	2990	1406	4396	0.32	0.33

The ratio of childcare places has fallen again this year to an average of 0.32 with Dearne, North and North-East all falling below average. Although, if the settings were able to deliver the number of places they were registered for the percentages would have been the same in most areas as in 20-21 or in the case of Penistone and Central they would have been higher. The North-East ward is significantly lower than the 20-21 ratio at 0.34 this is mainly down to the closure of one large nursery.

Early years vacancies

Type of provision	Number of providers	Total number of vacancies (full time equivalent)
Childminders*	135	50
Nursery classes in schools	55	410
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	57	379
Total	247	839

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. [We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them. Not all choose to do this]. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

Early years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekdays	Available after 6pm weekdays	Available weekends*
Childminders	135	60	9	1
Nursery classes in schools	55	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	57	10	0	0
Total	243	70	9	1

* This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 191 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 139 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. This includes 118 childminders that provide care for school age children.

The table below shows the numbers of the different types of provider, their registered places as well as the numbers of places they state they were currently offering at the time of the survey.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places	Number of places offered
Independent Out of School Clubs	7	227	212
Independent OSC Holiday Provision	5	187	172
School Breakfast Clubs	44	1756	1636
School After School Clubs	19	556	520
School Holiday Clubs	4	120	40
Childminders Term Time	117	595	539
Childminder Holiday Provision	112	516	509
PVI's Out of School Providers	22	335	267
PVI's Holiday Providers	17	272	204
Playgroups / Sessional Out of School	1	26	26

*Numbers do not include providers that had no response to the survey, this includes schools

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all this type of provision is registered with Ofsted. It is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

School age vacancies

As stated above, there are 191 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 139 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays including 118 childminders that provide care for school age children. Although vacancies change daily, the vacancies at the time of the survey for these providers were as follows

Type of provision		Number of providers	Number of places offered	Number of vacancies (FTE)
Independent Out of School Clubs	Before School	7	212	49
	After School			42
	Holiday	5	172	46
Schools	Before School	44	1636	469
	After School	19	520	129
	Holiday	4	40	0
Childminders	Before School	117	539	50
	After School			46
	Holiday	112	509	75
PVI's	Before School	22	267	19
	After School			24
	Holiday	17	204	47
Playgroups / Sessional	Before School	1	26	7
	After School			6
	Holiday			1

School age atypical hours

Childcare is mostly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare to school age children for atypical hours in our local authority is as follows:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekdays	Available after 6pm weekdays	Available weekends 1
Independent Out of School Clubs	7	2	0	0
Independent OSC Holiday Provision	5	2	0	0
School Breakfast Clubs	44	14		0
School After School Clubs	19		0	0
School Holiday Clubs	4	1	0	0
Childminders	117	60	9	1
PVI's Out of School Providers	22	7	0	0
Playgroups / Sessional Out of School	1	0	0	0

*Numbers do not include providers that had no response to the survey, this includes schools

3.Funded Early Years Education

Introduction to funded early education

Two Year Old Funding

Some two year old children are eligible for a funded place; eligibility for funding is based on the national criteria. All eligible two year old's are able to access a free early education place from the term after their second birthday. Each eligible child is entitled to 15 hours of free education a week, up to 570 hours per year for a maximum of three terms.

The figures below show the take up rate comparison between Barnsley L.A, all Yorkshire and Humber LA's and the national figure

Take up of 2 year funding						
			2019	2020	2021	2022
England		DWP population estimate for 2-year-olds	219,316	207,392	201,562	188,318
		Number of registered 2-year-olds	148,751	143,439	124,543	135,410
		Percentage of eligible 2-year-old children registered	68%	69%	62%	72%
Yorkshire and The Humber	Yorkshire and The Humber	DWP population estimate for 2-year-olds	25,651	23,904	22,814	21,210
		Number of registered 2-year-olds	18,315	17,318	15,231	16,143
		Percentage of eligible 2-year-old children registered	71%	72%	67%	76%
	Barnsley	DWP population estimate for 2-year-olds	1,247	1,147	1,054	1,059
		Number of registered 2-year-olds	919	839	738	793
		Percentage of eligible 2-year-old children registered	74%	73%	70%	75%

Three and Four Year Old Funding

All three and four year olds and eligible two year olds are entitled to 570 hours free early education a year, delivered as a minimum as 15 hours a week over 38 weeks (school term time) but can be taken as a stretched offer with fewer hours a week over more weeks in a year. Since September 2017 eligible three and four year olds have been entitled to an additional 570 hours free childcare, taking the entitlement for some children to 30 hours per week or 1,140 hours a year. Parents of children accessing a funded place are able to pay for additional hours to meet their childcare needs. This offer is widely available within the sector.

Take up of 3&4 by percentage and number of children in Barnsley and national figures						
			2019	2020	2021	2022
England		Number of registered 3-year-olds	625,658	621,351	574,845	582,295
		ONS population estimate for 3-year-olds	682,934	681,154	665,192	644,115
		Percentage of 3-year-old children registered	92%	91%	86%	90%
Yorkshire and The Humber	Yorkshire and The Humber	Number of registered 3-year-olds	62,139	61,636	56,982	57,711
		ONS population estimate for 3-year-olds	65,880	65,831	64,280	62,002
		Percentage of 3-year-old children registered	94%	94%	89%	93%
	Barnsley	Number of registered 3-year-olds	2,686	2,728	2,542	2,539
		ONS population estimate for 3-year-olds	2,883	2,895	2,912	2,740
		Percentage of 3-year-old children registered	93%	94%	87%	93%

4. Prices

The price of childcare is below all the national average figures by age and by hours, although slightly higher in most categories than the regional average. Nationally, it has been acknowledged that the cost of childcare in the U.K is higher than most other countries and is unsustainable. The Department for Education has consulted on how costs can be produced with one proposal being to increase the ration of children to staff, the results from the consultation are yet to be published.

Table 1 - Price of 25 hours a week childcare for children aged under three at nurseries and childminders

Area	Nursery		Childminder	
	Under 2	2 year old	Under 2	2 year old
England	£140.68	£135.28	£124.83	£122.33
Yorkshire & Humber	£122.17	£118.23	£110.39	£108.09
Barnsley	£132.70	£131.42	£111.53	£112.67

Table 2 - Price of 50 hours a week childcare for children aged under three at nurseries and childminders

Area	Day Nursery		Childminder	
	Under 2	2 years	Under 2	2 years
England	£273.57	£265.38	£237.58	£236.01
Yorkshire & Humber	£241.88	£234.31	£210.07	£208.06
Barnsley	£251.55	£247.24	£218.92	£219.20

Area	Day Nursery & Childminder	
	3&4 year old	
	25 hours a week including the free entitlement (paying for 10)	50 hours a week including 30 hour entitlement (paying for 20)
England	£54.10	£105.76
Yorkshire & Humber	£48.49	£88.57
Barnsley	£48.10	£91.90

5. Quality of childcare in our local area

Ofsted inspection grades

The registration and inspection of childcare providers is carried out by the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted). Local Authorities have a responsibility to ensure the childcare provided is of the highest quality as past research – EPPE and more recent studies show:

Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Barnsley	89%	92%	96%	97%	98%	99%	98%	98%
Yorkshire and Humber	86%	91%	95%	95%	96%	97%	98%	97%
National	85%	91%	93%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%

Figures Ofsted Statistics as at 31st August of each year

The Local Authority has provided support to all childcare settings, and this has resulted in above national and regional inspection outcomes.

Providers can also receive a met or not met outcome if they are inspected when they: have no children on roll or they have no children present on the day of the inspection. Out of School Clubs and those on the Childcare Register can only receive a met or not met outcome.

6. Parents and providers views of sufficiency of childcare in our local area

Parent survey

A parents survey was undertaken in July 2022 to ascertain the view of parents with regards to childcare availability and accessibility.

The survey was promoted and distributed by the Barnsley Families Information Service (FIS) and through the Barnsley Council website and 68 families responded to this survey and this covers 81 children with regards to the children that the families were needing childcare for.

5 of the 68 families that responded to the survey were looking for childcare close to their workplace therefore, 93% were looking for childcare close to their home.

The breakdown of the ages of the 81 children is as follows:

The ages of the children that families needed childcare for?		
Options	Response %	Response Total
Baby (under the age of 2)	47.1%	32
2-year-old	23.5%	16
3-year-old	19.1%	13
Over 5 years old	29.4%	20
Over 12 years old	0.0%	0

The parents survey asked what type of childcare they were looking for and the answers are as follows, please note, families could answer with more than one response.

Depending on the age of your child. What type of childcare are you/were you looking for?

Options	Response %	Response Total
Childminder	33.8%	23
Day Nursery	72.1%	49
Out of school club	17.6%	12
Holiday club	20.6%	14
No initial preference	2.9%	2

When asked how difficult it was to find childcare, 65% said it was hard or very hard with just 12% saying that finding the childcare they were looking for was very easy.

Can you get sessions at the time you need or needed?

Options	Response %	Response Total
Yes	47.1%	32
No	32.4%	22
I had to change my preferred days	16.2%	11
I'm on the waiting list	8.8%	6
I'm accessing at a different setting but will move when my preferred choice has places	8.8%	6

How far do you have to travel from your home address to access childcare?

Options	Response %	Response Total
Up to 1 mile	38.2%	26
Up to 2 miles	27.9%	19
Up to 5 miles	14.7%	10
Over 5 miles	19.1%	13

Parents were asked if a lack of childcare has stopped them or their partner from working in the way that they want to, the response was almost 50% with only 67 responses and 34 answering yes. Comments included many having to use flexible working including working from home where possible, reducing their hours or having grandparents looking after the child(ren).

Families were also asked where they looked for childcare initially:

What did you do when you first looked for a childcare setting?		
Options	Response %	Response Total
Searched online	64.7%	44
Social Media	32.4%	22
Recommendations from families and friends	50.0%	34
Rang Families Information Service	20.6%	14
I knew the childcare in my area	30.9%	21

The responses state that 65%, considered the Ofsted ratings of settings to help them choose childcare. The survey also asked if the family accessed any Government initiative to help with the cost of childcare with 35% not accessing any support from the Government.

Which of the government initiatives do you use to help with your childcare costs?		
Options	Response %	Response Total
Free Childcare for Eligible 2-year-olds	13.2%	9
30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	16.2%	11
Tax Free Childcare	41.2%	28
Support while you study	0.0%	0
None	35.3%	24

NB some families may access more than one initiative