Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Contents

Introduction

This report covers a 12-month period to November 2020 covering the Council's statutory requirement to report to elected council members on how Haringey is meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare.

It also allows for key information relating to the impact of coronavirus on childcare sufficiency to be included.

Reporting period

This Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report covers the period November 2019 to November 2020 and includes data and observations collected within the childcare market.

Details of report

Statutory guidance states that Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report should include information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare, including specific reference to how the Local Authority are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:

- Children with special educational needs and disabilities
- Children from families in receipt of Universal Credit
- Children with parents who work irregular hours
- Children aged two, three and four taking up funded places
- School age children
- Children needing holiday care
- Details of how any gaps in provision will be addressed

Supply of early years and childcare

Haringey has a strong and diverse mix of childcare providers, provision is made up of around 20% of settings are private (for-profit) providers, around 3% are voluntary (not-for-profit) providers, 12% are school based (mainly maintained) providers and 42% are childminders. In addition to this there is a mix provision for children over 5 years old with 24% of providers delivering out of school provision, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs.

Availability of places

There is a total of 446 early years and childcare settings, an increase of 56 between 2019 and 2020, delivering 12,348 childcare places.

Demand

A stocktake of the childcare market was carried out in November 2020 to understand the state of the current market and determine future need. Focus groups were held, parents and participants from across the sector shared their experiences of current (autumn term 2020) occupancy which showed a mixed picture. Some settings reported similar take-up of places to previous years, whilst others were experiencing low demand. Participants reported changes in parents' employment impacting on demand for childcare. It was reported parents were 'shopping around' for their childcare, possibly migrating from one setting to another, influenced to a degree by social media. There were concerns demand for paid-for hours (opposed to early years funded hours) had decreased, often as a result of changes to parents'' work circumstances.

Amongst several participants, there was a perceived lack of before and after school care for primary aged children. That which existed was described as sometimes too expensive and/or not compatible with parents' working hours. It was noted this had particularly been an issue for parents of children with SEND.

Several providers who participated noted an increase in children with SEND accessing services. It was felt that the number of children presenting with SEND was increasing year-on-year. Whilst there were fewer referrals from the child development center (CDC) and health colleagues (due to the nature of the way they were working remotely) more children had been identified as having SEND 'in house' within the childcare setting.

Haringey's Childcare Brokerage Service supports parents and carers who are experiencing difficulty in finding suitable childcare for children aged 0-14 and young people up to 18 years old if they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). The highest enquiries received covered the following themes:

- Additional charges to access a free early education place
- After school clubs for children with SEND and complex needs
- Early education places for parents whose children have no recourse to public funds
- Social workers supporting families requiring a childcare place
- Childcare for children under 2-years-old

Sufficiency of provision for children taking up 2- 3- and 4-year-old early education places

All three- and four-year-olds and around 40% of two-year-olds nationally are entitled to up to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of free early years entitlement. These are referred to as funded entitlements.

From September 2017, eligible families with a three-and-four-year-old became entitled to 30 hours childcare. 30 hours childcare is an extended early years entitlement which includes the 15 hours universal early years entitlement and an additional 15 hours (per week up to a maximum of 38 weeks, or 570 hours stretched across more weeks of the year). Eligibility for 30-hours childcare is based on both parents working in a couple household, and a single parent working in a lone-parent household, with minimum and maximum income thresholds applied. Parents apply to HMRC and if eligible are given a code which their chosen childcare provider validates before a place is taken up.

There are a total of 354 early years and childcare settings across Haringey (as of October 2020). Of these, just under a third (32%) takes funded two-year-olds, nearly half (48%) take funded (universal) three- and four-year-olds and 45% deliver the extended entitlement (30 hours).

Sufficiency data is collected each term on the number of places available in early years settings, and the number of vacancies. In autumn term 2020 an average of 58% of available registered two-year-old places were taken up, and 61% of three- and four-year-old places.

Averages varied across Network Learning Communities, with highest levels of take up in Highgate and Muswell Hill.

Network Learning Community	Average % take up of 2-year-old places offered	Average % take up of 3- and 4-year-old places offered
Harringay/West Green	48%	58%
Highgate/Muswell Hill	79%	84%
Hornsey/Stroud Green	72%	58%
North East Tottenham	66%	64%
South East Tottenham	43%	52%
Wood Green	43%	46%
Overall	58%	61%

Source: based on 100% sufficiency returns from providers

The data suggests that there are sufficient places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children.

Population statistics and projected supply of childcare

Haringey has a population of 51,588 0- to 14-year-olds[1], representing 19% of the resident population with the highest number of resident children live in the north east of the borough.

Haringey's population of 0- to 4-year-olds is expected to increase by 100 next year and remain static up to 2025. 5- to 9-year-old population numbers will increase by 100 next year and also remain the same up to 2025. 10-to-14-year population will increase by 300 next year and remain static up to 2025[2].

Sufficiency of provision for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit

Haringey works with early years and childcare providers and key partners to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including those in receipt of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit and welfare reforms.

A family in receipt of Universal Credit is eligible for funded childcare for their 2-year-old of up to 570 hours a year.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for three- and four-year-olds is additional funding for early years providers to improve the education and help narrow the gap in **children's** outcomes. Provider forum events and marketing campaigns have raised awareness of the processes for claiming early years pupil premium and highlighted the benefits to the child and setting. This has resulted in a reported 10% increase in EYPP claims for Summer Term 2019, Autumn 2020 EYPP claims have been lower due to lower participation numbers.

As a result of the impact of the coronavirus, data shows that more families are becoming eligible for Universal Credit. Haringey have seen a vast increase in Universal Credit **claimants'**, from March to June by 128%[3]. The impact of this could mean that more families become eligible for a 2-year-old place which could increase demand.

Sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Early years and childcare providers are required to be inclusive to support children with special educational needs and disabilities. Below outlines the support available to providers:

- Early years inclusion funding, aimed at 3- and 4-year-old children with SEND
- Disability access funding supporting the access needs of 3- and 4-year-old children attracting Disability Living Allowance

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[1] Source: office of national statistics 2017
[2] Source: GLA 2016 based long term projections
[3] Source: Haringey state of the borough July 2020

- A SEND Local offer for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years to support them with more complex needs.

Haringey has a higher percentage of two-year olds accessing the early years (funded) entitlement than the averages across London and England (particularly in the east if the borough where deprivation more prevalent).

- In 2020 5.7% of two-year-olds benefitting from the early years entitlement in Haringey were recorded as having SEN (London and England averages are 3.8% and 3.5% respectively)
- The take-up of the universal early **years'** entitlement by three- and four-year-olds with SEN in Haringey is broadly in line with London averages in 2020 and higher than the national average.
- Across Haringey 6,330 children aged between 0 and 19 years old with SEN status, attended Haringey schools in the last academic year (data taken from the school census January 2020). This included 1,066 children from out of borough and represents 16% of all SEND children in Haringey schools.

Haringey are currently working in partnership to develop out of school provision and procure a provider to deliver customer focus after-school, weekend and holiday provision for children aged 5 – 8 years with SEND.

In addition, we are reviewing the Short Breaks Framework and working with providers to stimulate the market in order to increase the number of providers on the framework. This in turn should provide a wider of choice to parents and children with SEND and allow the council to meet its statutory duty to provide short **breaks for children with SEND as outlined in the Children's Act 1989 and Children** and Families Act 2014 as well as a much-needed respite for parents and carers.

Sufficiency of provision for childcare requiring out of school provision and holiday care

A recent audit of out of school activities and holiday provision identified a range of out of school childcare (in the form of breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday provision) as well as extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Pre-COVID school-run and school-based childcare provision

	Number of provisions in:			
	Breakfast club	After school club	Extra-curricular activities and clubs	Holiday provision
Secondary schools	2	0	9	1
OFS	53	51	8	0
OFS providers	2	12	3	7

24% of our providers deliver out of school provision, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs.

There is a demand for out of school provision for 5- to 11-year-olds and children with SEND. Parent Surveys gathering information on family childcare needs will be used as an indicator for models of delivery which will meet **family's needs**. Out of school forums have been set up to better understand the demand and provider capacity in delivering places.

Sufficiency of provision for children with parents who work irregular hours

Recent information from our parent focus group reported that decisions about balancing work and care was currently shaping use of in/formal childcare. This was particularly the case for **parents'** dependent upon different types of employment and shift work, meaning their needs could not be catered for through existing formal provision. Parents used informal childcare at home or with relatives and friends. It was felt this was more flexible when parents had to work overtime or changing days and hours. This is particularly prevalent to schools where some do not have wraparound care to provide care for longer hours.

Haringey Ofsted registered providers offering before 8am, after 6pm and weekend care are reported below:

<u>Opening from or before 8am:</u>

	Number of providers offering 2-year-old entitlement places	Number of providers offering 3&4-year-old entitlement places	All providers including ages 5+ offering provision from or before 8am
Alexandra	2	3	5
Bounds Green	5	5	10
Bruce Grove	4	5	12
Crouch End	1	6	14
Fortis Green	4	6	9
Harringay	7	9	18
Highgate		1	3
Hornsey	3	5	11
Muswell Hill	4	4	11
Noel Park	7	7	15
Northumberland Park	5	6	13
Seven Sisters	4	3	11
St Ann's	2	2	9
Stroud Green			6
Tottenham Green	3	3	11

Tottenham Hale	6	8	16
West Green	8	9	15
White Hart Lane	4	4	15
Woodside	7	7	16

Open until or after 6pm:

	Number of providers offering 2-year-old entitlement places	Number of providers offering 3&4-year-old entitlement places	All providers including age 5+ offering provisions until or after 6pm
Alexandra	2	3	5
Bounds Green	4	4	9
Bruce Grove	4	5	12
Crouch End	1	6	12
Fortis Green	5	7	11
Harringay	7	9	15
Highgate		1	1
Hornsey	3	5	10
Muswell Hill	3	3	7
Noel Park	7	7	15
Northumberland Park	5	6	12
Seven Sisters	4	3	11
St Ann's	3	4	11
Stroud Green			7
Tottenham Green	3	4	12
Tottenham Hale	6	9	14
West Green	8	8	13
White Hart Lane	4	4	16
Woodside	5	5	10

Weekends:

	Number of providers offering 2-year-old entitlement places	Number of providers offering - 3& 4-year-old entitlement places	All providers including age 5+ offering provisions on weekends
Alexandra		1	1
Bounds Green			
Bruce Grove	1	1	2
Crouch End		1	2
Fortis Green	1	2	3
Harringay	1	3	5
Highgate			
Hornsey	2	2	2
Muswell Hill			
Noel Park	2	1	4
Northumberland Park		1	3
Seven Sisters	2	2	3
St Ann's			2
Stroud Green			1
Tottenham Green		1	1
Tottenham Hale	1	1	1
West Green			1
White Hart Lane			1
Woodside	1	1	4

Support for providers and the impact of COVID-19

Following the Government announcement that all educational settings were to close on 20th March except for children of key workers and vulnerable children. Haringey closely monitored the number of children in attendance reporting information on a weekly basis to the Department for Education.

Haringey supported childcare settings to re-open under revised Government guidance and Ofsted regulations. Termly online meetings were held with the childcare sector to support their quality and sustainability. Presently all our childcare providers are open for business supporting children's learning and development.

Haringey delivered business support sessions to providers in June 2020 on the practicalities and financial planning of delivering post COVID-19.

Haringey held focus groups with parents, partners, and LA Officers to gain an insight into their experiences in choosing a childcare place and supporting the families they work with.

The Government introduced a range of financial support packages to support all businesses during lockdown and recovery. These were in addition to Government support specifically for the childcare sector where public funding for the early years free entitlements. The range of financial support schemes include:
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough)
- Small business grant scheme
- Small business rate relief
- Bounce Back Loans

Survey of providers

A survey of early years providers was carried out in May 2020.

A total of 87 settings responded to the survey – around 20% of all registered provision. A number of settings will have been closed in May 2020.

The survey included a number of questions that potentially relate to financial sustainability of settings, and therefore provide a good indicator of potential risk.

Below is a table indicating the number of providers who applied to the government financial support schemes.

Type of provision (number)	SEISS	Furlough	Bounce Back Loan	Small Business Grant Fund	Small Business Rates Relief
Childminder (23)	78%	22%	9%	5%	0%
Day nursery+ (10)	0%	90%	0%	0%	20%
Pre-school (3)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
School ** (3)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Out of school (6)	33%	67%	0%	0%	17%
Overall (44)	45%	55%	5%	2%	7%

+ Here day nursery includes **children's centre provision and community nurseries** given low response
** Here schools include independent schools

Multiple responses

Where respondents had been successful in accessing Government financial support, the main types of support were the Self-employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough).

Data from key questions, see below, regarding financial sustainability will enable Haringey to deliver a COVID-19 recovery response action plan to support providers deliver sustainable childcare.

Key questions
- Percentage of income derived from funded hours
- Estimated loss of income
- Concern regarding business sustainability
- Held financial reserves

Actions arising from the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report to address gaps in provision

The Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report has highlighted some key areas of focus to ensure there is sufficient provision for 2021, these have now been added into an incorporated action plan to ensure there is sufficient, high quality and accessible childcare places in Haringey:

- Increase the take up of the 2-year-old funding
- Increase the take up of the 3- and 4-year-old early education funding
- Identify providers that are most at risk due to falling numbers
- Consider financial support for settings that serve areas of deprivation and policy priorities and where there is clearly a sufficiency need
- Social media marketing strategies to increase participation of childcare and monitor impact
- Ensure key partners are involved in supporting childcare sufficiency
- Create out of school provision, weekend and holiday care to meet the gap for 5-to-8-year children with special educational needs.
- Regular updates for Job Centre Plus staff supporting families to access work and training opportunities through childcare
- Create provision for 5-to-11-year-olds where there is a clear demand and shortage of places across the borough