

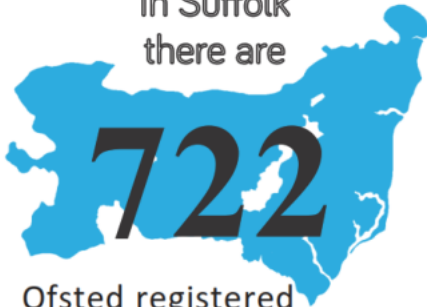
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) December 2021 – December 2022

Suffolk County Council

Early Years and Childcare Service

Suffolk's Early Years and Childcare Service

In Suffolk
there are



Ofsted registered
providers offering
13,271 full time
equivalent (FTE) places



of funded
two year olds
take up their
funded place



of three and four
year olds take up
their funded place



There is a
deficit of
-875
FTE places in
Suffolk

Suffolk ranked

99 out of
151 of
Upper Tier
Local
Authorities
in England

with rank 1 being
the most deprived



66,000

new houses to be built in Suffolk over the next
20 years, therefore we will need to provide

15,559

extra lots of FTE Places

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COVID – 19

At the point of this sufficiency assessment being published, the funded hours claimed by providers in Suffolk have broadly returned to pre pandemic levels. The reduction in sold hours due to the pandemic has had a significant impact on many providers. Local knowledge suggests that many providers have now increased their sold hours to at least pre pandemic levels. However, providers also report that issues with recruiting staff are a key barrier in increasing numbers and this mirrors the picture nationally. Some providers have closed in Suffolk over the last year. However, existing provision has also expanded and new provision has opened this year.

1. Overall assessment and summary

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is required to report annually to elected members demonstrating how the sufficiency duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 is met. This act places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. The expected outcome of the sufficiency duty is that parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high-quality providers.

There is a further requirement to make this report available and accessible to parents.

The legislation above is defined in B1 and B2 in the Statutory Guidance, page 27. The link to the guidance is **here**.

B1: Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

B2: Report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents.

SCC has assessed 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. This work is undertaken by gathering data on the number of places available, take up of places and population.

SCC uses this information to plan work supporting the local childcare market. This information is used to target specific areas to ensure that supply matches demand as far as possible. The council also uses this data to respond to housing development enquiries in order to secure provider contributions for the development of early years and childcare places. This is to help comply with local authority duties under section 2 of the Childcare Act 2016 and sections 6, 7, 7A, 9A, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006 to ensure sufficient childcare for working parents.

The government promotes an offer of **free** childcare or **free** early education to parents. After listening to the views of the providers in Suffolk a decision was taken to refer to this as '**funded** early years childcare or education'. This is reflected throughout this document.

England picture compared to Suffolk

- In England, there were an estimated 70,990 providers offering 1.3 million Ofsted registered places in August 2021
- **In Suffolk there are 722 Ofsted registered providers. 576 are in receipt of early education funding, offering 13,271 full time equivalent Ofsted registered places in August 2021.**
- 68% of Councils in England report having enough childcare places for working parents to access their funded 30 hour place.
- **There is a deficit of -875 early education places available in Suffolk after sold places have been taken into account.**
- Childcare costs for parents with children aged three and four excluding their funded entitlements is on average £5.39 per hour for England (mean hourly band)
- **Childcare costs for parents with children aged three and four excluding their funded entitlements is on average £5.34 per hour for East of England.**
- Childcare costs for parents with children aged three and four excluding their funded entitlements is on average £5.00 per hour for Suffolk.
- Nationally the take up of funded two year olds is 62%
- **In Suffolk currently 69% of eligible two year olds take up a funded place.**
- Nationally the take up of funded three year olds is 87%.
- **In Suffolk 83% of three year olds take up a funded place.**
- Nationally the take up of funded four year olds is 93%.
- **In Suffolk 91% of four year olds take up a funded place.**

Suffolk contextual information

- There are 39,083 children under the age of five living in Suffolk.
- Suffolk Local Authorities are planning to deliver more than 66,000 new homes over the next fifteen years. To meet the demand from this housing 5,665 full time equivalent (FTE) places, would need to be developed. Within the next two years, 19,000 homes are planned to be delivered and to meet this demand, 1,559 FTE would need to be developed.
- 97% of early years providers who deliver the funded entitlements are currently graded at good or outstanding. There has been a steady increase in the number of providers judged to be outstanding and this currently stands at 17%.
- The Early Education National Funding Formula was introduced in 2017. The impact for Suffolk was that less money was received from the Government to pass through to providers and less centrally retained to support the service.
- Some providers in Suffolk have reported that they are struggling to meet the additional costs of running a childcare business having seen increases in the living wage, pension contributions and business rates. This affects the sustainability of the childcare market. The Covid19 pandemic created further challenges for childcare providers as it directly affected the numbers of hours parents /carers wanted, particularly sold hours. Some

settings reduced the amount of hours they were able to offer to children during this time and some parents reduced the hours their children spent in early years provision. Although for many providers, sold places are reported to have returned to at least pre pandemic levels, significant issues with recruiting staff are impacting on many providers' ability to keep up with the demand for places resulting, in some cases in a need to cap the places on offer.

- In the Summer of 2020, Suffolk County Council introduced a range of business and finance support tools to help childcare providers plan steps to recovery and to enhance their understanding of the factors to consider when running a childcare business. Providers on the Suffolk List of Providers (LOP) have been offered support in using these tools.

Overall sufficiency in Suffolk

Early years and childcare team members are deployed within clusters and are responsible for having an overview of the supply and demand within a cluster area. A Quality and Access Co-ordinator has responsibility for overseeing sufficiency of childcare places across several clusters.

This report includes a sufficiency summary for each cluster. The data is based on the Summer Term as this term reflects the period in a year where there is greatest demand for childcare places. For this specific report, 2021 data has been used.

In order to provide a clearer and more accurate picture of Suffolk's sufficiency of places, the number of places recorded in this report as 'available' takes into consideration places sold by the childcare providers directly to parents and families. The number of sold places reduces the number of funded places available for universal and extended places. Sold places were calculated by taking a countywide sample from each type of childcare provider. A percentage was then calculated, and this was applied to the relevant type of provider across Suffolk. The sample data was based on the places sold in Summer 2021.

Across Suffolk the needs of families differ. The government's criteria for funded two year old places is determined primarily by the social economic circumstances of the family. Areas with higher numbers of families meeting this criterion are likely to have a greater demand for two year old places. Suffolk also offers a two year old funded place to children who are, or have ever been, in care and children who are in receipt of disability living allowance or who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Some parents who are non- European Economic Area (EAA) citizens but who cannot claim benefits may also be eligible. See the link below for further details.

[Help paying for childcare: Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-education-and-childcare-for-2-year-olds)

In addition, SCC works in partnership with the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) to offer early funding of places for up to 15 hours per week for two year olds, who have graduated from the FNP programme, to support consistency and effective transition. Children accessing the FNP are eligible for funding from their second birthday. FNP engages with eligible teenage mothers and their intervention ceases when the child turns two. SCC provides the same offer to two year olds that are supported under the Young Person Pathway delivered by its 0-19 Healthy Child Programme to teenage mothers. An agreement between the childcare provider and SCC is put in place for funding until the child is eligible under the funding at two criteria.

Deprivation

Deprivation in Suffolk

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks every small area, also known as Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Using the IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure, Suffolk ranked 99 out of 151 of Upper Tier Local Authorities in England with rank 1 being the most deprived.

While IMD is principally used for looking at small areas there is some summary data for larger areas, for example, Local Authorities. However, the pattern of deprivation across large areas can be complex. In some areas, deprivation is concentrated in pockets, rather than evenly spread throughout. In other areas the opposite picture is seen, with deprivation spread relatively evenly throughout the area, and with no highly deprived areas.

How Suffolk ranks across the different deprivation indices

Scores are calculated across a number of domains. The table below show details on how Suffolk ranks in each of those domains. Ranks are out of the 151 of Upper Tier Local Authorities with a rank of 1 being the most deprived

Average rank for Suffolk in each of the domains – 2019

Suffolk	
IMD	99
Income	114
Employment	105
Education, Skills and Training	57
Health Deprivation and Disability	101
Crime	118
Barriers to Housing and Services	52
Living Environment	86
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	106
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	121

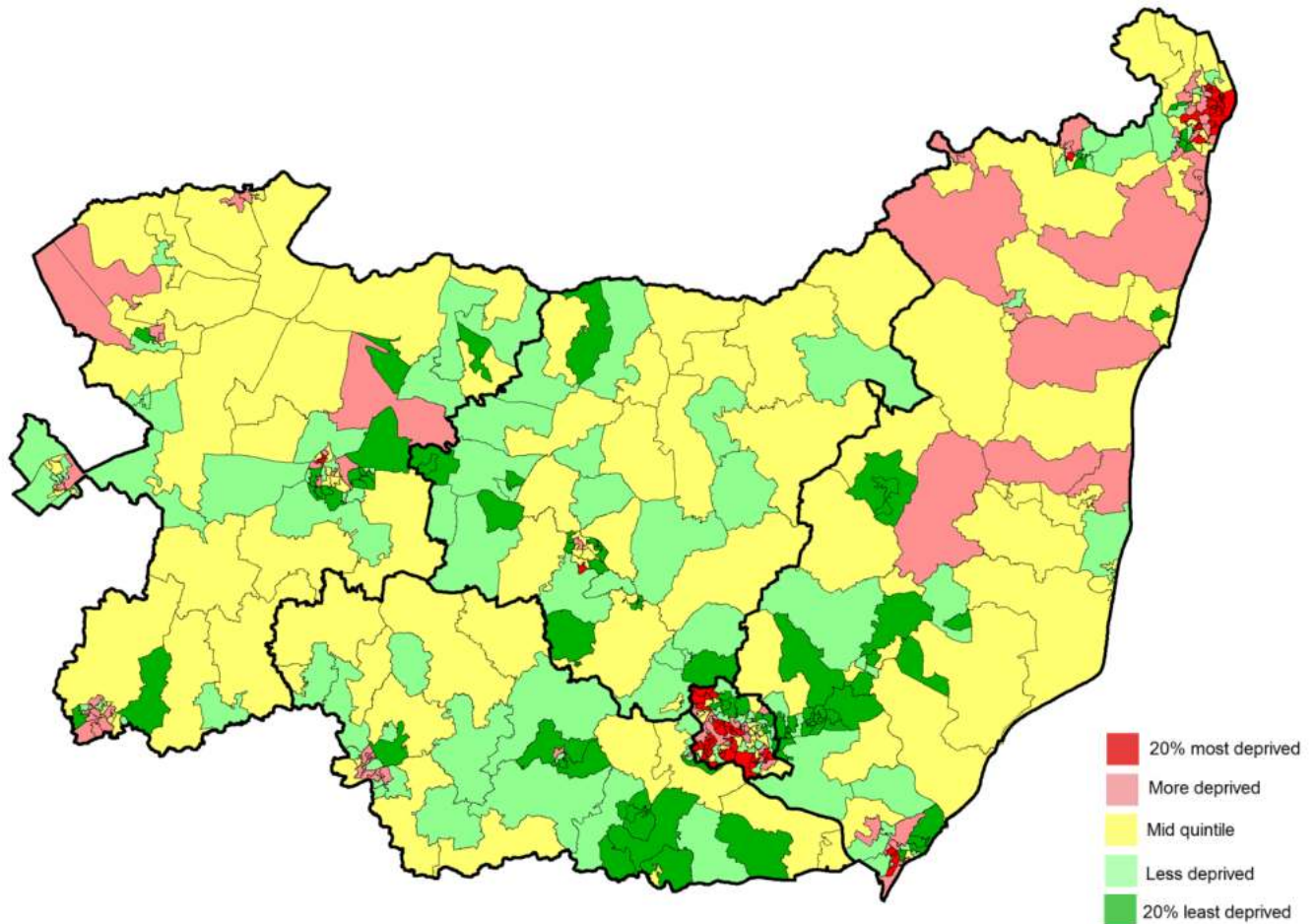
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834001/File_11_-_IoD2019_Local_Authority_District_Summaries__upper-tier__.xlsx

Suffolk is more deprived in terms of education, skills and training and barriers to housing and services and less deprived in terms of crime and income.

Deprivation at LSOA Level

The map below shows the IMD composite index quintiles of deprivation by LSOA. In 2007 and 2010 all of the areas in Suffolk within the most deprived 20% of areas in England were found in Ipswich and Lowestoft (shown in red). By 2015 these areas of higher deprivation have increased and spread to other parts of the county, including Felixstowe, Great Cornard, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall and Beccles. Since 2010, many areas of rural Suffolk have moved from the second least deprived 20% in England (pale green) to the mid-quintile (yellow).

IMD quintile by LSOA in Suffolk, 2019



Data source:

https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Indices_of_Deprivation_2019_Shortpdf.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845345/File_7_-_All_IoD2019_Scores__Ranks__Deciles_and_Population_Denominators_3.csv/preview

Deprivation at district and borough and ward level

Districts and boroughs

Suffolk consists of five local authority districts or boroughs as shown in the map above; these are Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk.

Babergh - Key points

- The IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure places the authority at 212 out of 317 local authorities
- Has no LSOA's in the most deprived 10% or 20%
- The most deprived LSOA is Babergh 007E

2019 - Average rank for Babergh in each of the domains	
IMD	212
Income	226
Employment	228
Education, Skills and Training	173
Health Deprivation and Disability	257
Crime	212
Barriers to Housing and Services	45
Living Environment	150
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	219
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	243

East Suffolk – Key points

- In April 2019 East Suffolk Council was formed by merging Suffolk Coastal and Waveney council areas.
- The IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure places the authority at 158 out of 317 local authorities
- 10 LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived areas
- The most deprived LSOA is Waveney 007D

2019 - Average rank for East Suffolk in each of the domains	
IMD	158
Income	167
Employment	143
Education, Skills and Training	113
Health Deprivation and Disability	159
Crime	217
Barriers to Housing and Services	209
Living Environment	133
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	163
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	202

Ipswich – Key points

- The IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure places the authority at 71 out of 317 local authorities
- It is the most relatively deprived authority within Suffolk
- 45.8% of LSOAs in Ipswich are in the most deprived 30% nationally
- The most deprived LSOA is Ipswich 014B

2019 - Average rank for Ipswich in each of the domains	
IMD	71
Income	85
Employment	84
Education, Skills and Training	35
Health Deprivation and Disability	69
Crime	52
Barriers to Housing and Services	203
Living Environment	78
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	84
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	95

Mid Suffolk – Key points

- The IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure places the authority at 229 out of 317 local authorities
- 3.6% of LSOA's are in either the 20% or 30% most deprived areas
- The most deprived LSOA is Mid Suffolk 008C

2019 - Average rank for Mid Suffolk in each of the domains	
IMD	229
Income	261
Employment	268
Education, Skills and Training	189
Health Deprivation and Disability	285
Crime	260
Barriers to Housing and Services	43
Living Environment	119
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	250
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	252

West Suffolk – Key points

- In April 2019 West Suffolk Council was formed by merging Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury council areas
- The IMD 'rank of average rank' summary measure places the authority at 176 out of 317 local authorities
- 1% of LSOA's are in the 20% most deprived
- The most deprived LSOA is St Edmundsbury 003C

2019 - Average rank for West Suffolk in each of the domains	
IMD	176
Income	224
Employment	227
Education, Skills and Training	110
Health Deprivation and Disability	187
Crime	198
Barriers to Housing and Services	25
Living Environment	243
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	241
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI)	214

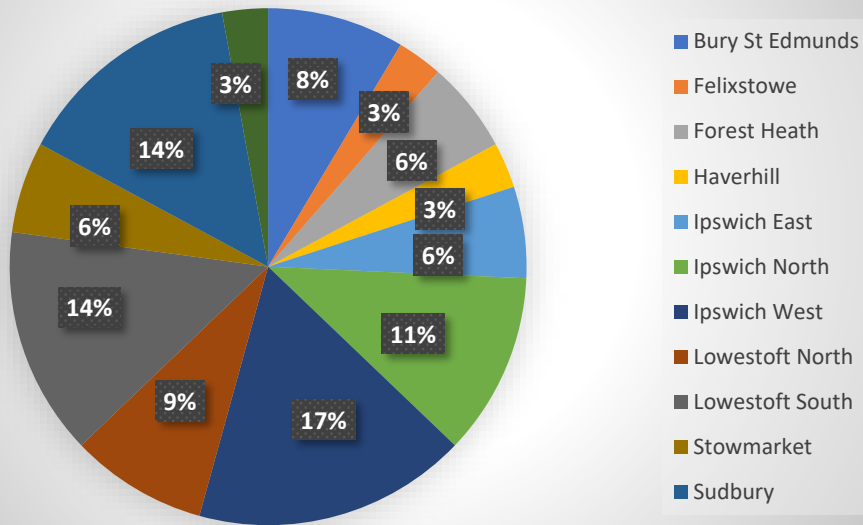
In Suffolk there are 139 Wards; 44 of these wards (31%) include LSOAs in the top three deciles (most deprived neighbourhoods in England)

In wards we can look at the proportion of LSOAs that lie within each decile. Decile one represents the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in England while decile 10 shows the least deprived 10% of areas.

The breakdown of these wards into clusters can be seen here:

Bury St Edmunds	4 wards
Felixstowe	2 wards
Forest Heath	4 wards
Haverhill	4 wards
Ipswich East	3 wards
Ipswich North	5 wards
Ipswich West	6 wards
Lowestoft North	3 wards
Lowestoft South	4 wards
Stowmarket	3 wards
Sudbury	4 wards
Waveney and Blyth	1 ward
Woodbridge & Kesgrave	1 ward

Most deprived wards by cluster



These wards have been listed in Appendix One – Cluster level profiles

2. Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

In total, there are 39,083 children under the age of five living in Suffolk. These children may require early years childcare.

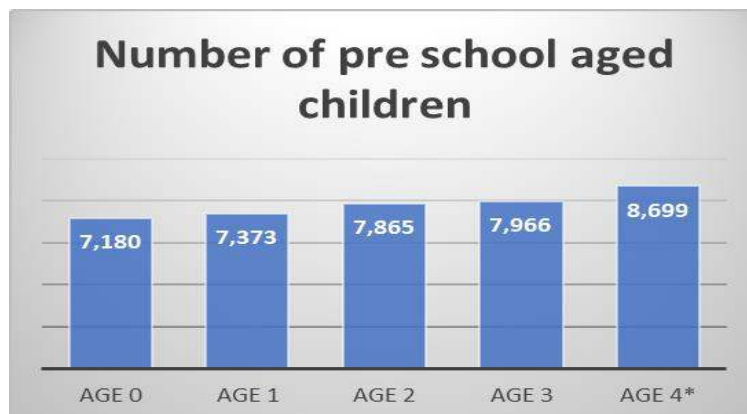
Table 1

Age	Number of children
Age 0	7,180
Age 1	7,373
Age 2	7,865
Age 3	7,966
Age 4*	8,699

* Some four-year-olds will be in reception classes

Data Source: ONS population estimates Mid-2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=%2fpeoplepopulationandcommunity%2fpopulationandmigration%2fpopulationestimates%2fdatasets%2fpopulationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland%2fmid2020/ukpopestimatesmid2020on2021geography.xls>



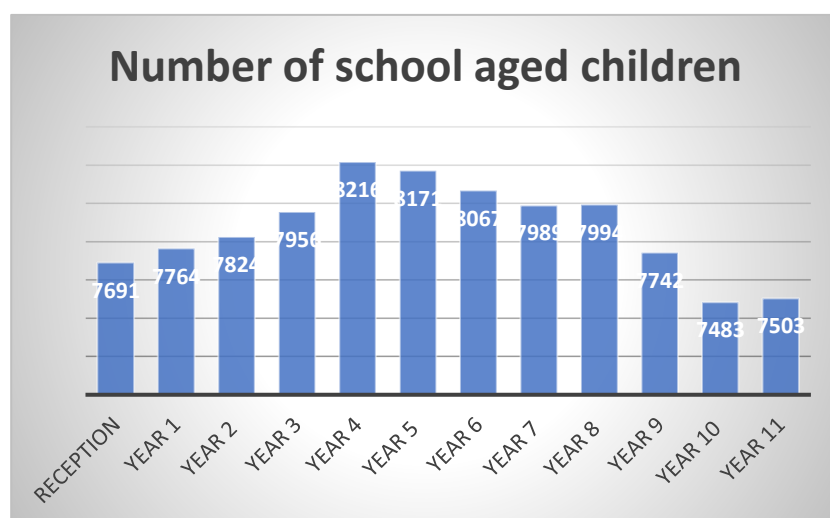
Population of school age children

In total there are 55,689 primary school age children aged from four to eleven, and 38,711 children aged from 12 to 16 in school living in Suffolk. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2

Age	Number of children
Reception	7691
Year 1	7764
Year 2	7824
Year 3	7956
Year 4	8216
Year 5	8171
Year 6	8067
Year 7	7989
Year 8	7994
Year 9	7742
Year 10	7483
Year 11	7503

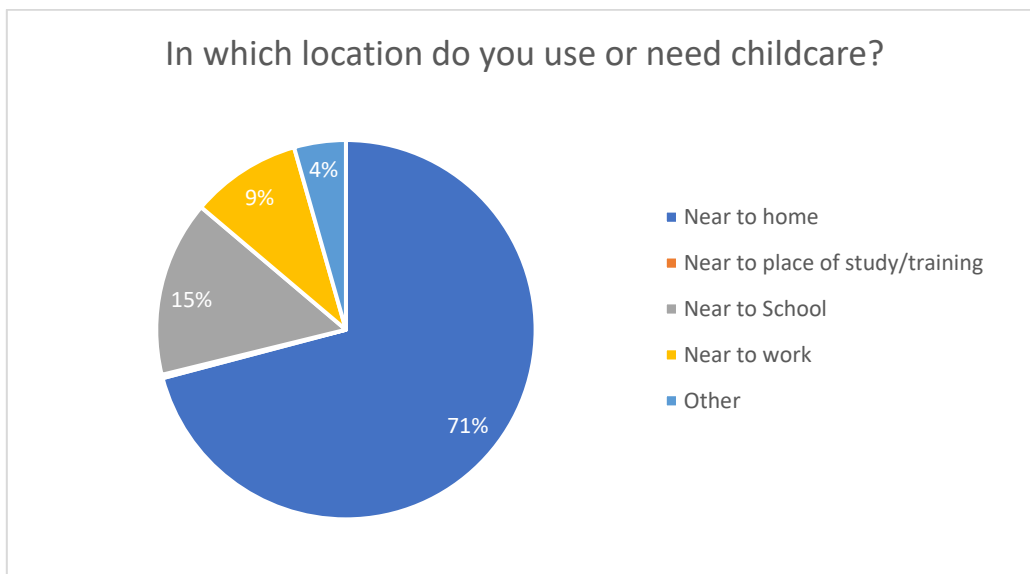
Data Source: SCC School Census Data January 2021



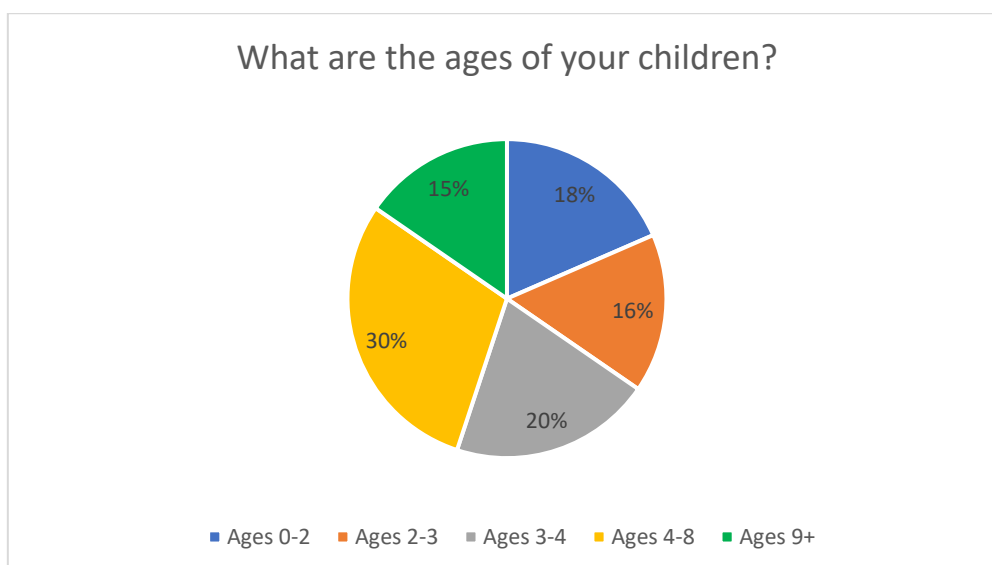
3. Parent and carer consultation on childcare

A parental consultation in November 2021 resulted in 340 responses. The highest number of responses came from Forest Heath and Ipswich West and the lowest from North Lowestoft and Thurston.

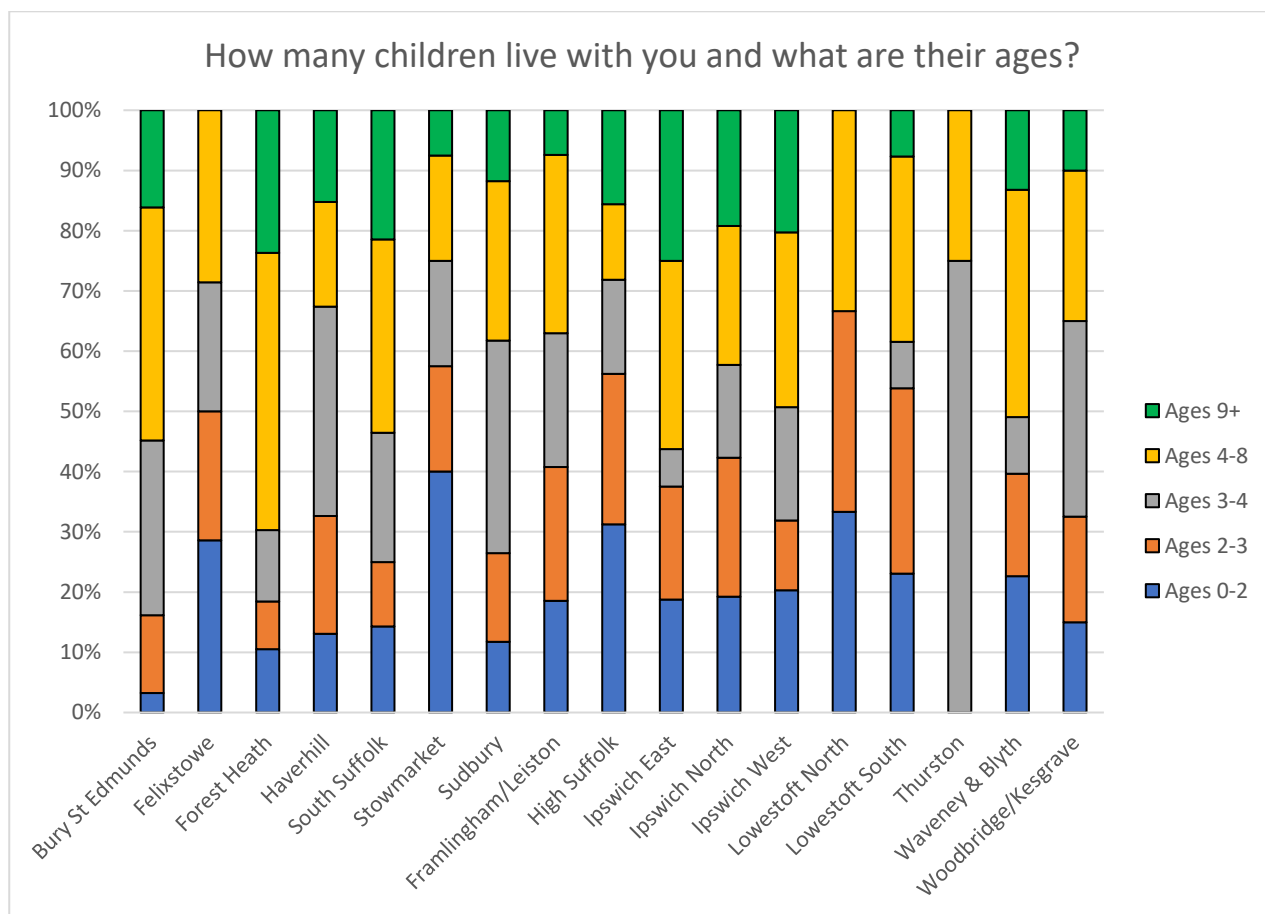
We asked parents/carers where they preferred to access childcare. Of those who responded to this question, 71% said they preferred accessing childcare close to their home.



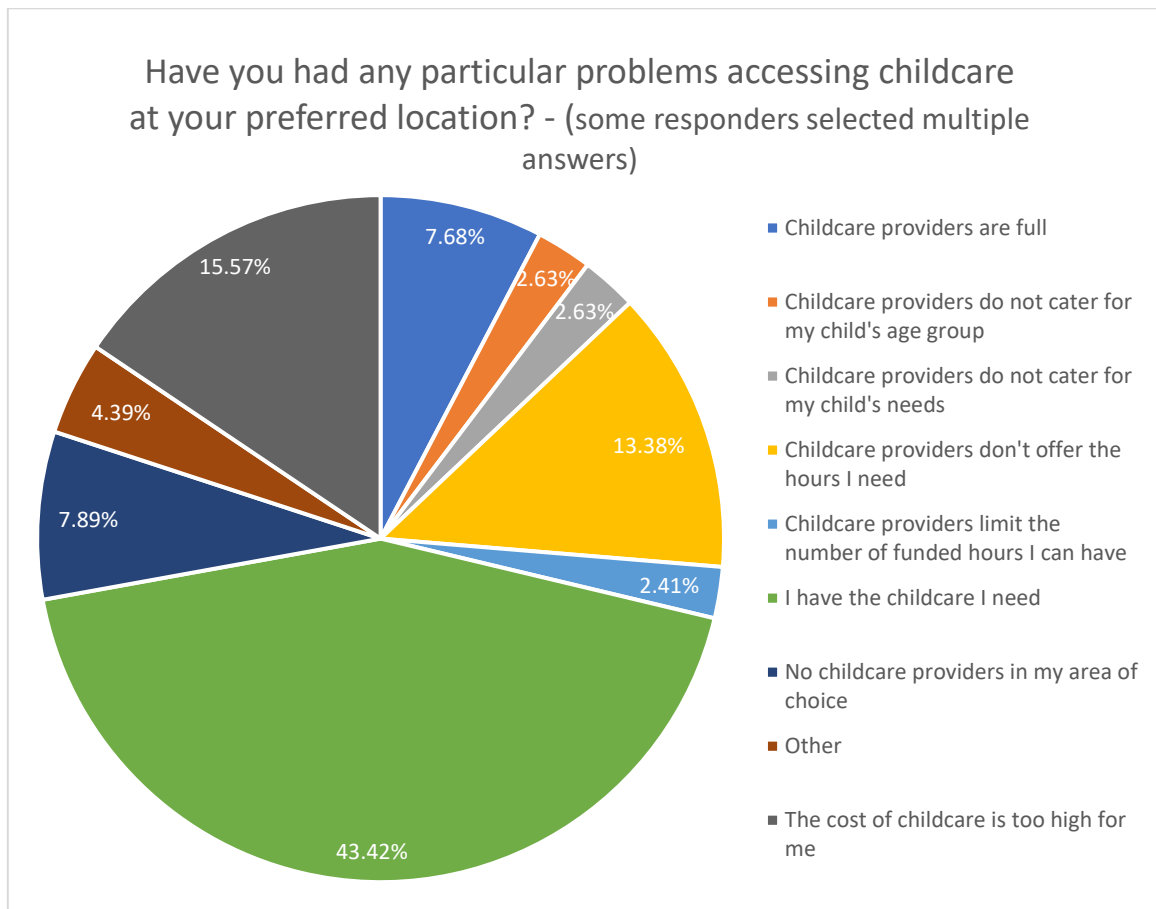
Nearly a third of Suffolk parents who responded had a child aged between 4 and 8. A fifth of the respondents had a child aged between 3 and 4. Please see below for details on the ages of the respondents' children.



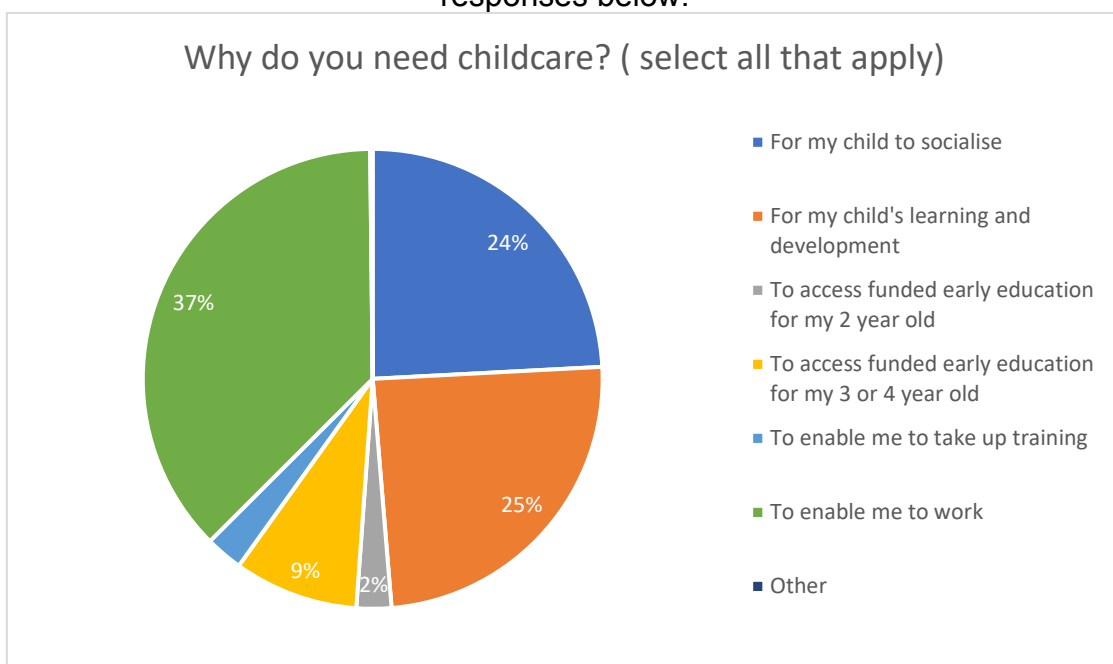
We asked about how many children live with you and their ages. This is shown below per geographical area or 'cluster'. You may find this information helpful when looking at information from the survey's respondents in each cluster in appendix 1.



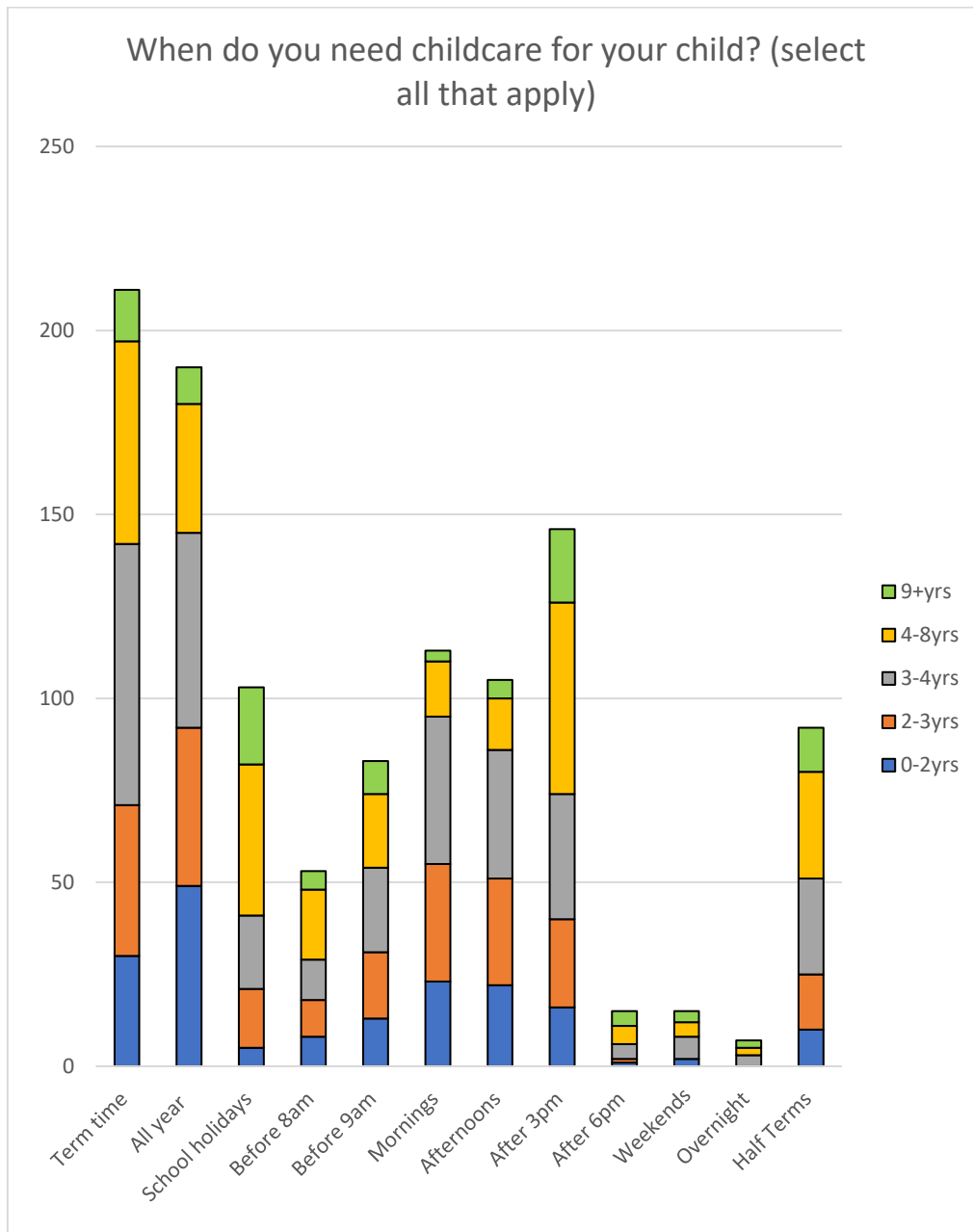
We also asked if parents/carers had any problems accessing childcare in their preferred location. There were 439 answers as some respondents selected multiple answers. Please see table of the responses below.



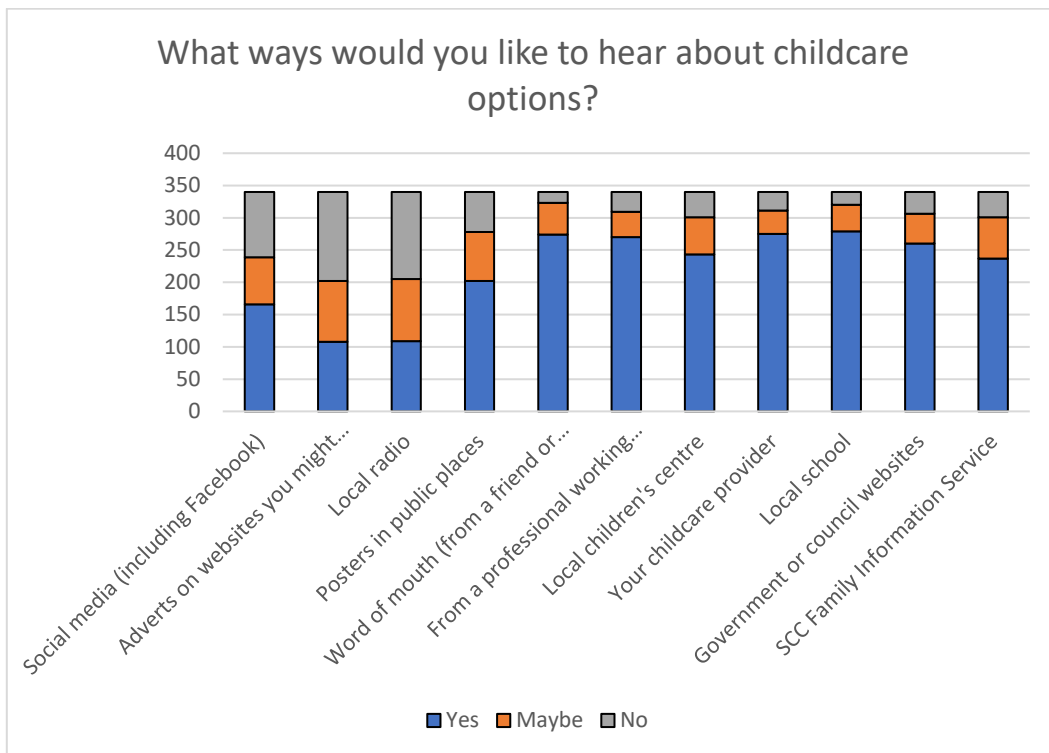
The consultation asked why parents/carers needed childcare? Please see table of responses below.



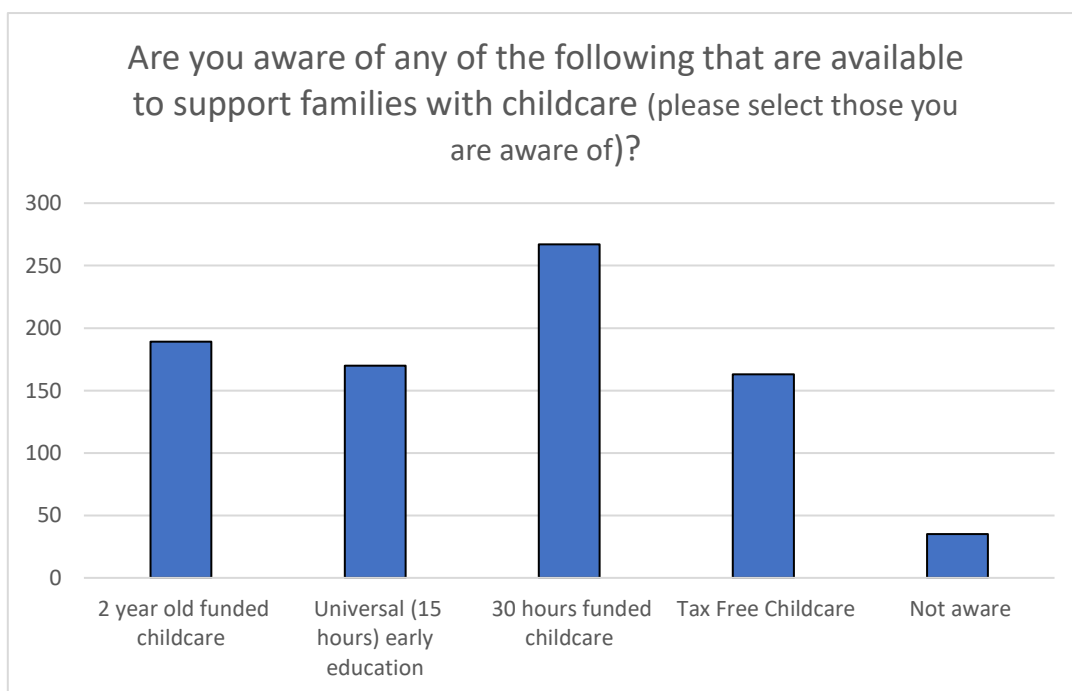
We asked parents/carers when they needed childcare. Please see tables of responses below.



Parents/carers were asked how they would like to hear about childcare options? Please see table of responses below.



We asked parents/carers about their awareness and use of types of support for families with childcare? Please see tables of responses below.



4. Provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Number of children with SEND

The local authority has a duty to secure sufficient childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) up to the age of 18.

The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in Suffolk is 5895

Table 3

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	46
Primary school (reception to year six)	1970
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	2786
Colleges, Specialist Post 16 institutions, other FE, apprenticeships, supported internships	1093
All EHCP pupils @ 31 March 2021	5895

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from concerns being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore inevitable that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. The majority of children receiving support for SEND do not have an EHC plan as their needs are met without the need for one.

SCC strategically plans support for children with SEND in order to meet the needs of all children as required by SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (January 2015).

Under the Equality Act 2010, admission to a provision cannot be denied or a child excluded due to a child's health or developmental needs. Providers must support and enable all children with SEND to access their provision and the Early Years Foundation Stage. They must provide an inclusive environment which reflects their duty to promote equality and their obligations as outlined in the Act.

SCC works with parents/carers and providers to remove barriers of access to early education and to support all children to fulfil their potential. SCC ensures it meets its duties under the Equality Act 2010 when securing early education places.

SCC support parents to find childcare provision to meet their child's needs. To assist with this the Suffolk InfoLink website has a Local Offer section for every provider. This provides clear, accessible, and accurate information about the services available for children and young people with SEND. To ensure the information provided meets the needs of parents and carers, SCC co-produced a guidance document with Suffolk Parent Carer Network. This guide outlines key information parents and carers want to see included in the record of an organisation or provider, so that they can easily understand whether the support

would be relevant for their child. SCC encourages all providers to complete their local offer using this guidance.

SCC supports providers to offer an inclusive environment. All members of the LoP are eligible to apply for the following SEND funding strands for any eligible children accessing any part of their early education funding with them. This funding is a contribution to the provider's total resource to support them to meet the needs of the child and to enable the child to be effectively included.

Inclusion funding: this fund is to support the provider to meet the emerging needs of a children who are aged two, three and four years This payment is paid for two terms.

Disability Access Fund (DAF): this funding is eligible for three and four year olds in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Early Years High Needs (HN) funding: this funding is for eligible children aged, two, three and four years, whose special educational needs are significant and complex. HN funding payments are made directly to the provider and equate to the number of hours the child attends the provision.

Childcare Support Funding (CSF): this funding is for children with significant additional needs, aged from three months until the term after the child's second birthday.

There are a small number of two, three and four year olds with SEND who have a special school assessment nursery placement and also attend Early Years and Childcare provision.

SCC delivers a range of training to support providers to deliver inclusive practice.

SCC challenges providers not meeting their duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Childcare providers in receipt of early education funding agree to the following terms and conditions under the LoP.

As set out in Section G – Equality and Inclusion. SCC will promote equality and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged families, children in care, children in need, children with disabilities and children with special educational.

As set out in Section F – Removal from the LoP. SCC will remove the provider from the LoP if they fail to comply with its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

In addition to support, guidance and challenge to our childcare providers SCC works in partnership with colleagues in health, Suffolk Family Carers and Home-Start to deliver EarlyBird (under five years) and EarlyBird Plus (ages four – nine). These are support programmes for parents and carers offering advice and guidance on strategies and approaches for supporting young children with autism.

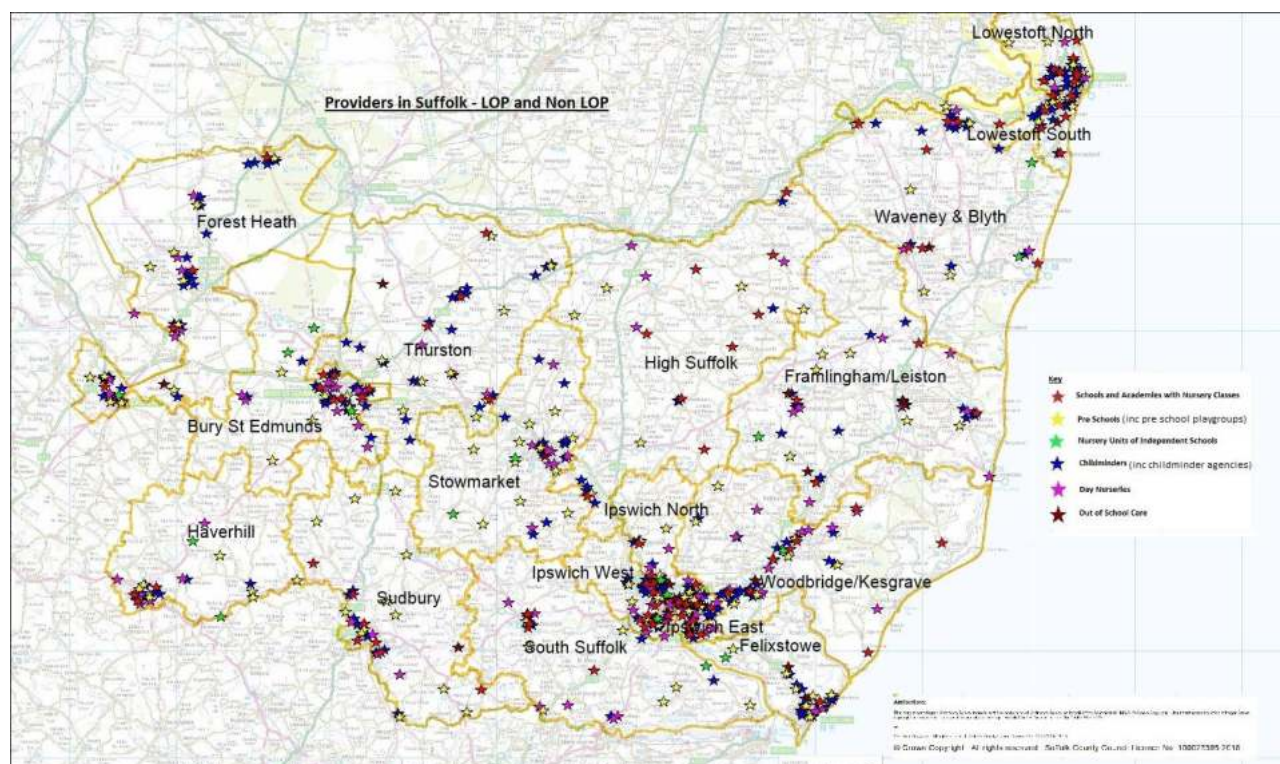
5. Supply of childcare, Suffolk picture

Number of Early Years Childcare Providers

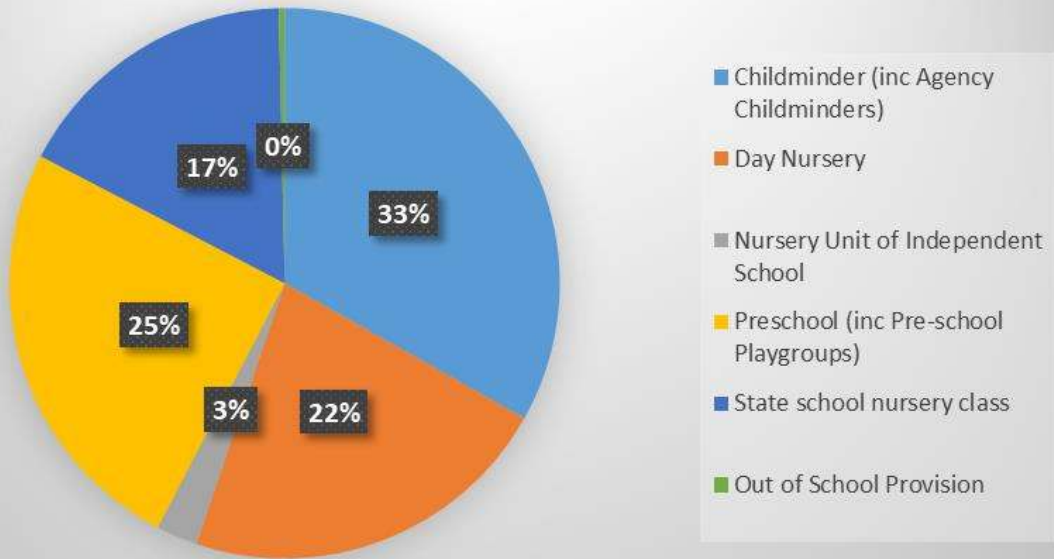
In total, there are 722 Ofsted registered childcare providers in Suffolk Local Authority. 576 are on the LoP and are in receipt of early education funding. 146 are offering childcare which is funded directly from the parent/carer. They do not offer early education funded places and are not on the LoP.

Table 4 No. of providers for county		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP	Total
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	191	92	283
Day Nursery	127	5	132
Nursery Unit of Independent School	14	4	18
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	144	0	144
State school nursery class	98	0	98
Out of School Provision	2	45	47
TOTAL	576	146	722

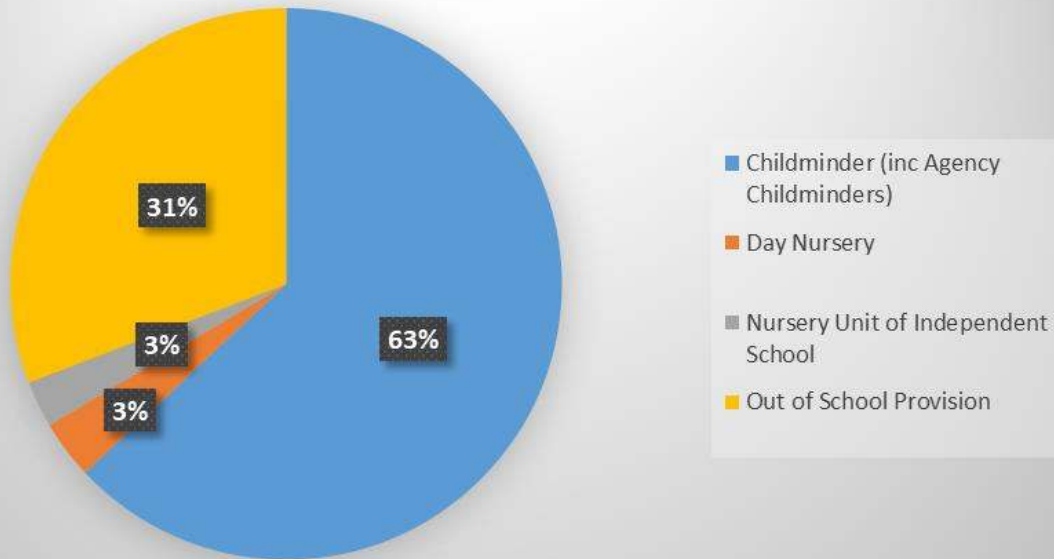
Providers in Suffolk. List of Providers and Non List of Providers



Providers on the LOP



Providers on the Non LOP



Number of school age providers and places

Tracking the supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this provision is independently registered with Ofsted. For example, it may come within a school’s registration. Parents may also use provision which is not considered ‘childcare’, for example sports or arts clubs which take place after school or in the holidays. For these

reasons we have not included data on these places available, only that which is available through provision independently registered with Ofsted.

SCC offers a childcare brokerage service for parents requiring assistance finding suitable childcare. SCC proactively work with providers to address gaps in the childcare market.

6. Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year. It is the local authority's duty to administer this funding and make the payments to the providers each term.

- All three and four year olds in England are entitled to 570 funded hours per year. It is usually taken as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. This entitlement is available until they start in reception class in school. This is referred to as their 'Universal' entitlement.
- Children aged three and four, from working families who meet the criteria set out by the Department for Education (DFE), are entitled to 'up to' an additional 570 funded hours per year. These 570 funded hours are referred to as the 'Extended' entitlement. Collectively the 1140 hours is often referred to as 30 hours.
- Children aged two whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. In England about 40% of two year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year. Or rather than taking 30 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take 23.75 hours for 48 weeks a year. This is referred to as a stretched offer.

Parents may choose to pay for additional hours on top of the funded entitlement. In addition to securing funded places, the local authority is required to secure sufficient childcare places for all children, including under twos and out of school care.

Proportion of 2 year olds entitled to funded early education

In Suffolk approximately 26% of 2yr olds in Suffolk are eligible for funded childcare under the economic criteria.

However, this does not include any children eligible under additional criteria for example CiN children which means the actual percentage is likely to be higher.

In Suffolk 69% of eligible two year olds take up a funded place

In Suffolk this equates to 18% of all 2yr olds in Suffolk taking up a place.

2yr olds in Suffolk (ONS 2020)	Eligible 2yr olds (DwP)	% eligible in Suffolk	Funded 2yr olds (SCC)	% funded (of those eligible)	% funded (all children in Suffolk)
7865	2012	26%	1380	69%	18%

Spring Term Census Data 2021

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in Suffolk is:

Table 6

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	69%
Age 3	83%
Age 4	91%
Age 3 and 4	87%

Data source: DfE Education provision – children under five years of age - 2021

Comparison of take up of funded early education 2018 -2021

Table 7

Age	2021	2020	2019	2018
Age 2 – targeted	69%	102%	73%	79%
Age 3 and 4	87%	91%	94%	94%

Data source: DfE Education provision – children under five years of age – 2021

7. Three and four-year-old funded entitlement – 30hrs

Parents can check their eligibility and apply for their 30 hour code online through the Government's Childcare Choices website. The same website is used to apply for 'Tax Free Childcare' and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible for a 30 hour place for their child, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare and may choose to pay for additional hours themselves.

Prior to the 30 hours childcare policy being introduced in September 2017 the DfE indicated that in Suffolk around 51% of three and four year olds would be eligible. The policy came into effect from 1 September 2017. To prepare for implementation we calculated half of the three and four year old population would require an additional 15 hours and built this into our sufficiency calculations.

After the first year of this policy implementation, analysis showed that 23% of three and four year olds accessed their 30 hour codes, however analysis in summer 2021 showed 37% accessing their 30 hour codes. This is lower than the 51% figure given by the DfE initially.

We will continue to analyse this data each term and we will replace the estimated 51% with the actual take up percentage when this is relevant.

30 hour codes used in Suffolk

Table 8

<i>Step</i>	<i>Number of families in Suffolk</i>	<i>Number of families in England</i>
Eligible codes issued	5094	420,723
Eligible codes validated	4501	379,115
% validated	88%	90%

30 hours free childcare: eligibility codes issues and validated April 2019. Data from DfE illustrated above shows a decrease in codes validated in Suffolk from September 2018 and is now slightly lower England's overall average.

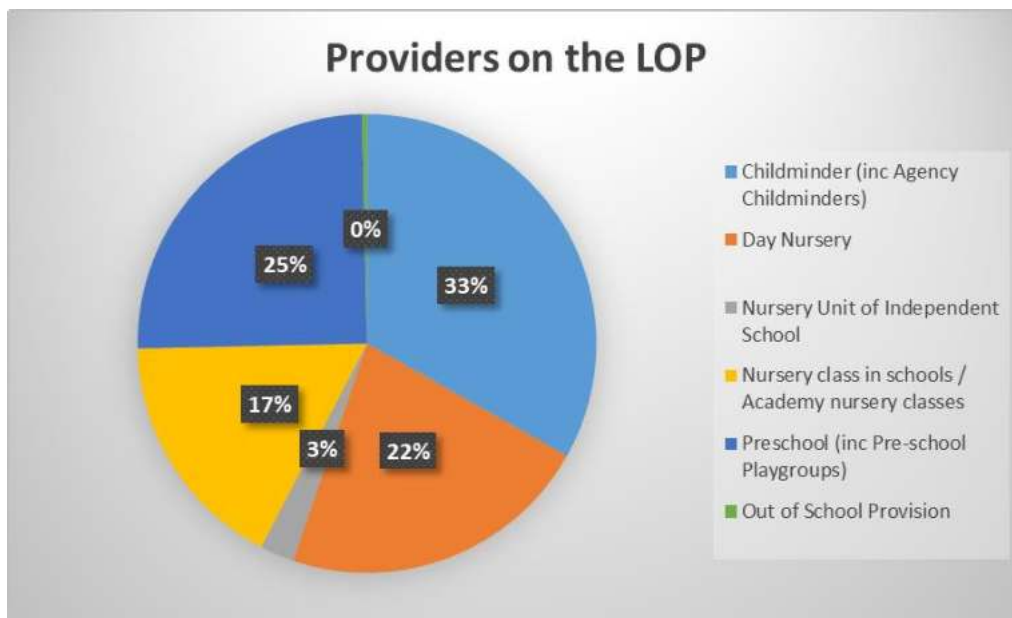
8. Funded early education places available

Funded early education places available

SCC administers early education funding on behalf of the government to providers on the LoP. Providers are not required to join the LoP and offer funded places to parents. Providers who choose to offer funded education must publish their funded offer. Some providers offer funding very flexibly, some restrict the number of funded places and others restrict the times funded places are available.

Table 9

Type of provision offering early education funding (LOP)	Number of providers
Childminders (inc Agency Childminders)	191
Day nurseries	127
Nursery classes in schools / Academy nursery classes	98
Nursery units of independent schools	14
Pre school play group	144
Out of school care	2
ALL	576



Places available – 30 hours (51%) Suffolk picture

Table 10

<i>Eligible 2s</i>	<i>3 and 4yr olds (inc 51% extra)</i>	<i>Total FTE spaces needed</i>	<i>Spaces available from Providers (FTE)</i>	<i>Sold Places (FTE)</i>	<i>Surplus or Deficit after sold places deducted</i>
2129	18,855	10,458	13,271	3,688	-875

*Places available refers to FTE available in a week

Table 11 illustrates the total number of *Full time Equivalent places* needed and available for every eligible two year, for three year olds and all four year olds have their universal entitlement plus 51% predicted for the additional 15 hours required to fulfil the 30 hour policy. This table shows that, based purely on statistical data and without taking additional demand from new housing, there is a deficit of -875 FTE places across Suffolk.

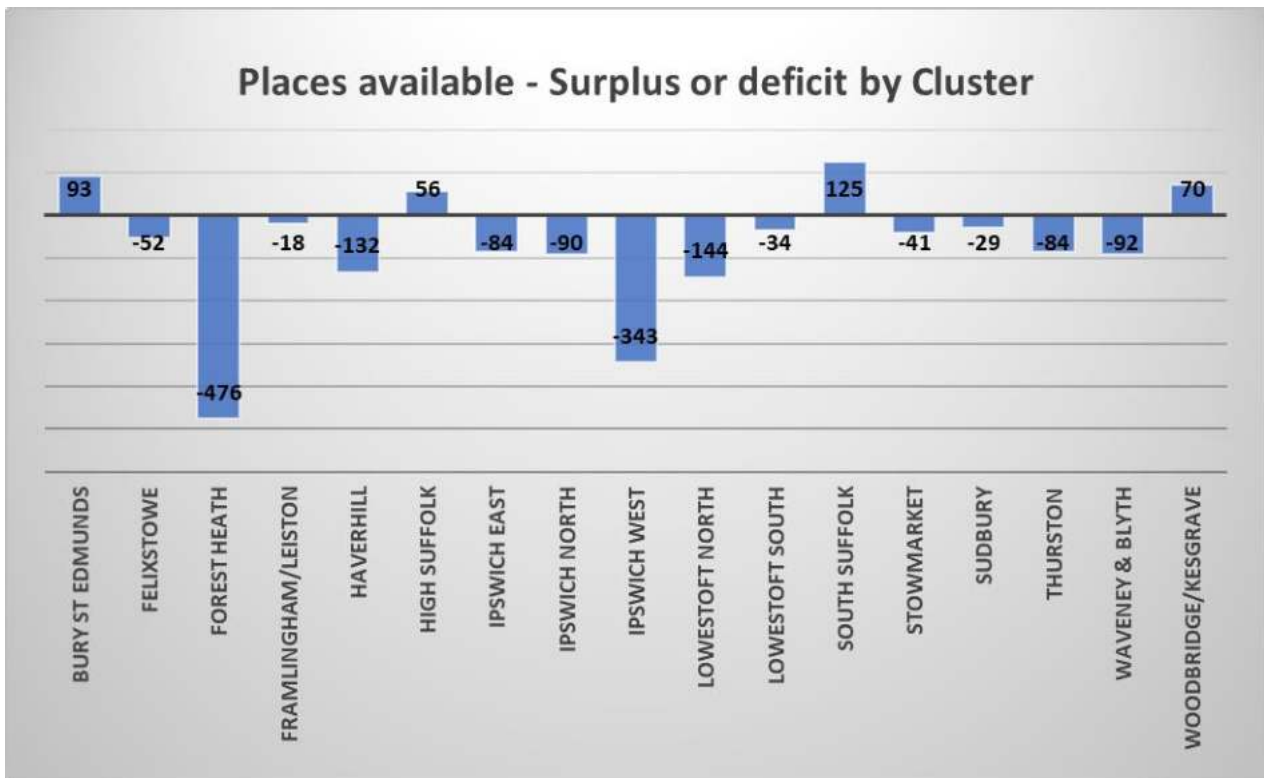
Early education places at cluster level

Planning proposals are not taken into account in the figures in this table					
Cluster	Eligible 2s, 3 and 4 yr olds	Total FTE spaces needed (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	Spaces available from providers (after SOLD places deducted)	Places available Surplus or Deficit	Places available Surplus or Deficit (with migration considered)
Bury St Edmunds	867	624	821	197	93
Felixstowe	542	387	324	-63	-52
Forest Heath	1719	1242	835	-407	-476
Framlingham/Leiston	600	425	411	-14	-18
Haverhill	806	582	506	-76	-132
High Suffolk	412	298	361	63	56
Ipswich East	1131	807	789	-18	-84
Ipswich North	948	681	686	5	-90
Ipswich West	1706	1198	767	-431	-343
Lowestoft North	904	632	565	-67	-144
Lowestoft South	724	514	399	-115	-34
South Suffolk	493	355	536	181	125
Stowmarket	784	565	533	-32	-41
Sudbury	853	611	606	-5	-29
Thurston	631	457	365	-92	-84
Waveney & Blyth	636	454	404	-50	-92
Woodbridge/Kesgrave	859	627	675	48	70
Suffolk	14616	10458	9583	-875	

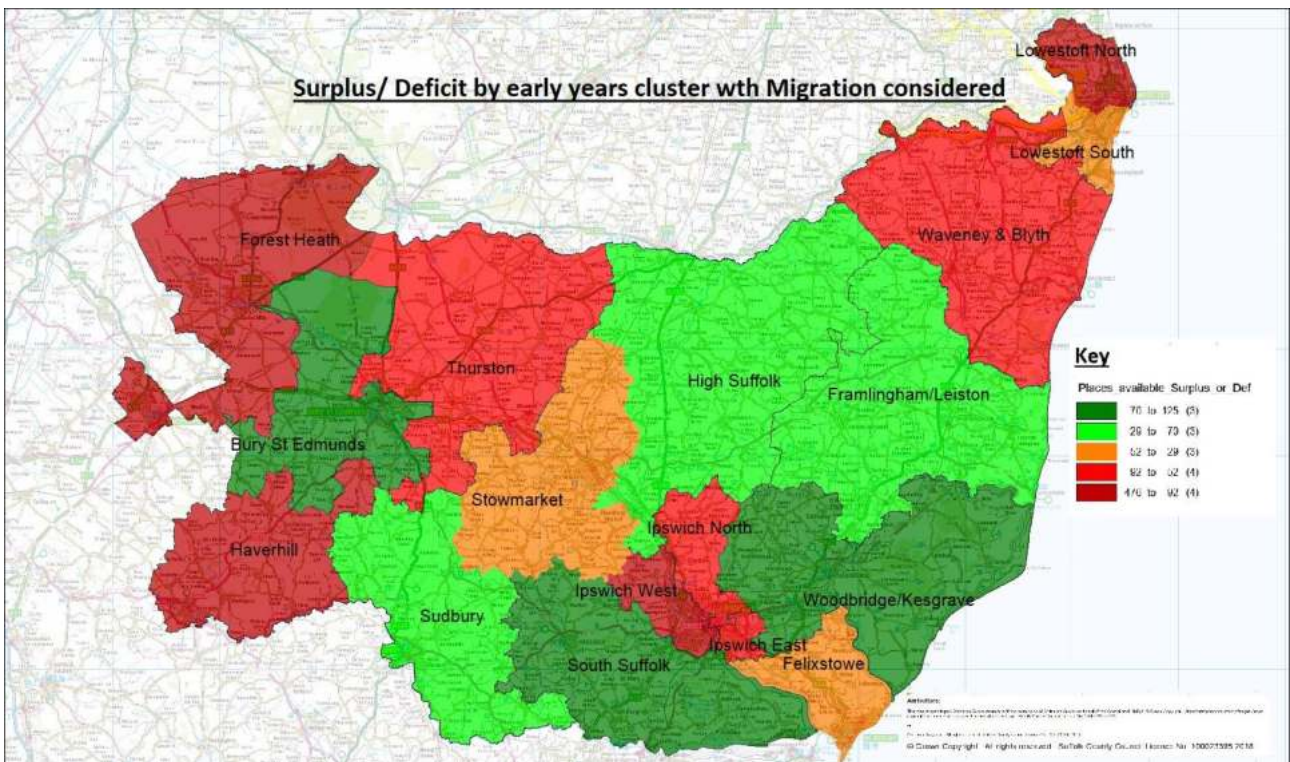
Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of ward data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 Sufficiency Grid

Migration considered by cluster



Map – surplus or deficit with migration considered



This does not include additional demand from new housing

9. Hourly rates

Hourly rate paid by Suffolk County Council

Suffolk receives funding from the government. The amount is determined by the National Funding Formula. This is distributed to providers based on their termly claims. The funding comprises of an hourly rate plus deprivation funding and inclusion funding for eligible children. Providers also receive Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding for eligible three and four year old children.

In December 2020 the DFE published the funding rates for Early Years and Childcare for 2020/21. The Suffolk rates from April 2021 are:

two year olds £5.36 per hour
three and four year olds £4.19 per hour

In December 2021 the DFE published the funding rates for Early Years and Childcare for 2020/21. The Suffolk rates from April 2022 are:

two year olds £5.57 per hour
three and four year olds £4.36 per hour

Hourly rate charged by providers

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, SCC reports on the average rate per hour, as reported to SCC by providers.¹² There may be variations to rates based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional rates for additional services, for example, lunch and other meals which are not included in these charges.

Hourly rate	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Nursery Units of Independent Schools	Childminders
Average of known providers	£5.44 per hour	£31.21 per session	£4.55 per hour

Source: SCC

Mean hourly fee band for Suffolk

Mean hourly Fee	England	East of England	Suffolk
3 and 4yr old pre-school children	£5.39	£5.34	£5.00
2yr old children	£5.53	£5.48	£5.00

Data source: Survey of Childcare and Early Years providers 2021

10. Quality of childcare

Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who gives them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools Register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and many also have a separate early years grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.³ Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Nursery classes in independent schools do not generally have an Ofsted grade.

Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection – Suffolk

	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Requires Improvement</i>	<i>Inadequate</i>
All	17%	80%	1%	1%
Childminders	14%	82%	3%	1%
Childcare on non-domestic premises	22%	76%	1%	3%
Childcare on domestic premises	24%	71%	3%	1%

Ofsted Data as of 31st Aug 2021

Comparing inspection grades over time

<i>% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'</i>	<i>Aug 2021</i>	<i>Aug 2020</i>	<i>Aug 2019</i>	<i>Aug 2018</i>
All	95%	95%	94%	95%
Childminders	96%	94%	94%	96%
Childcare on non-domestic Premises	98%	95%	94%	96%
Childcare on domestic premises	95%	95%	97%	91%

Ofsted Data as of 31st Aug 2021

11. Plans for sufficiency work in 2022

SCC will

- use 2020 Office of National Statistics (ONS) forecasts to place plan.
- continue to explore forecasting the population three to five years ahead.
- share our sufficiency knowledge with existing and potential providers so that new provision is developed in the places where there is a demand.
- initiate discussions with providers where we identify a deficit of provision in an area to encourage them to review their offer and explore ways to create more places
- support providers when necessary to address viability issues by reviewing their current offer and suggesting changes which would better meet the needs of families
- annually survey parent and carers to find out their childcare needs
- continue to review the methodology for calculation of places
- monitor take up of 30 hours places
- monitor sold places impacting on early places available – developing a user friendly system for capturing the data
- work in partnership with Schools Infrastructure and Strategic Planning to deliver sufficient places in response to housing development and to further refine forecasting methods and incorporate any planned housing delivery
- work closely with Schools Infrastructure colleagues to develop early years places along with school building projects to achieve economies of scale
- make best use of SCC properties and other public sector assets
- maximise developer contributions to extend existing provision or to create new provision
- review lease agreements with providers in SCC buildings encourage providers, where appropriate, to extend their opening hours to become ‘full day-care’ i.e. eight to six all year round and to move away from sessional term time practices
- share ideas and good practice with other LA’s to learn from them and trial new approaches
- take advantage of projects made available by the DfE to create additional places
- develop resources to support providers with recruitment. Foster links with colleagues in other organisations to raise awareness of the difficulties with recruitment in the sector and work with these organisations where possible to explore solutions

12. Methodology

- Number of children: The data for children under five comes from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the school age children data comes from the school census within the local authority.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by Suffolk local authority.
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to SCC by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision. In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted.
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for two year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Sold places were calculated by taking a countywide sample from each type of childcare provider. A percentage was then calculated, and this was applied to the relevant type of provider across Suffolk. The sample data was based on the places sold in Summer 2021.
- Price of childcare: This is an average based on the prices that childcare providers have told us they charge.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- IMD data 2019 has been used for Deprivation

Cluster level data

All data used for sufficiency within the local authority is based on the summer term. This is because SCC is aware that this will be the busiest term for childcare providers when most four year olds will be in a setting as many move to school in the Autumn term.

To calculate sufficiency we use the same information as noted throughout this document:

- ONS population estimates are used for three and four year olds. We use 100% of three year olds and 58% of four year olds, to take into account the oldest four year olds in Reception year. We roll the data forward one year because of the ONS publishing schedule, for example the two year olds in the ONS 2020 data have been counted as three year olds as they would be a year older.
- 51% of three and four year olds to calculate for 30 hour entitlement
- DfE data for number of eligible two year olds
- Funded places reported upon are taken from the Suffolk county council List of Providers and the Sufficiency Grid which is used to calculate the places available.

Take up data at cluster level

- SCC uses all funding claims received and removes duplicates.

- Out of county children are included in this report. This decision is based on the likelihood that for every child funded in Suffolk who lives out of county, there will be a Suffolk child who attends a setting in a neighbouring county and is therefore funded by them.
- SCC calculates a child's date of birth based on the first date in the term. For summer 2021 data 01/04/2021 was used.
- As take up is calculated against a baseline we include four year olds who are in school reception classes. This represents one term worth of children in the summer term.

Migration considered at cluster level

- To factor migration, we use the early years funding claims for all children aged two, three and four years.
- To calculate migration out, we look at where children live (by postcode) and how many attend a setting in the same cluster or in another cluster.
- To calculate migration in, we look at all the settings within a cluster and whether the children who attend live in the cluster or outside it (in another cluster.)
- These two figures give us a net migration percentage. This has been applied to the population to calculate a surplus / deficit that considers migration.

13. References

Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities: 2018 *Department for Education*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey: 2021 *Department for Education*

Childcare and early years providers survey: 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Childcare Survey 2021 *Family and Childcare Trust*

Childcare Survey 2021 | Family and Childcare Trust

Education provision: children under 5 years of Age January 2021 *Department for Education*

Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting Year 2021 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Childcare Providers and inspections as at 31st August 2021 *Ofsted*

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Suffolk Observatory Deprivation *Suffolk County Council*

<https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/deprivation/>

https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/uploads/Indices_of_Deprivation_2019_Shortpdf.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845345/File_7_-_All_loD2019_Scores__Ranks__Deciles_and_Population_Denominators_3.csv/preview

Appendix 1 Cluster level details

Clusters by ward

Bury St Edmunds

- Abbeygate
- Barrow
- Chedburgh & Chevington
- Eastgate
- Horringer
- Minden
- Moreton Hall
- Risby
- Southgate
- St Olaves
- Tollgate
- Westgate

Thurston

- Bardwell
- Barningham
- Elmswell & Woolpit
- Ixworth
- Pakenham & Troston
- Rickinghall
- Rougham
- Stanton
- The Fornhams & Great Barton
- Thurston
- Walsham-le-Willows

Forest Heath

- Brandon Central
- Brandon East
- Brandon West
- Exning
- Icen
- Kentford and Moulton
- Lakenheath
- Manor
- Mildenhall Great Heath
- Mildenhall Kingsway and Market
- Mildenhall Queensway
- Newmarket East
- Newmarket North
- Newmarket West
- The Rows

Sudbury

- Assington
- Box Vale
- Bures St Mary & Nayland
- Chadacre
- Great Cornard
- Lavenham
- Long Melford
- Sudbury North East
- Sudbury North West
- Sudbury South East
- Sudbury South West

Haverhill

- Clare, Hundon and Kedington
- Haverhill Central
- Haverhill East
- Haverhill North
- Haverhill South
- Haverhill South East
- Haverhill West
- Wepstead & Wickhambrook
- Withersfield

Lowestoft South

- Carlton & Whitton
- Carlton Colville
- Kessingland
- Kirkley & Pakefield

Lowestoft North

- Gunton & St Margarets
- Harbour & Normanston
- Lothingland
- Oulton Broad

Waveney Blyth

- Beccles & Worlingham
- Bungay & Wainford
- Halesworth & Blything
- Southwold
- Wrentham, Wangford & Westleton

Ipswich North

- Alexandra
- Castle Hill
- Claydon & Barham
- Rushmere
- St Margarets (Ipswich)
- Whitton (Ipswich)

Ipswich West

- Blakenham
- Bramford
- Bridge
- Gipping
- Sprites
- Sproughton & Pinewood
- Stoke Park
- Westgate (Ipswich)
- Whitehouse

South Suffolk

- Brantham
- Brett Vale
- Capel St. Mary
- Copdock & Washbrook
- East Bergholt
- Ganges
- Hadleigh North
- Hadleigh South
- Orwell
- South East Cosford
- Stour

Woodbridge/ Kesgrave

- Carlford & Fynn Valley
- Deben
- Kesgrave
- Martlesham & Purdis Farm
- Melton
- Rendlesham & Orford
- Woodbridge

Ipswich East

- Bixley
- Gainsborough
- Holywells
- Priory Heath
- Rushmere St Andrew
- St Johns

Felixstowe

- Eastern Felixstowe
- Orwell & Villages
- Western Felixstowe

Framlingham/ Leiston

- Aldeburgh & Leiston
- Framlingham
- Kelsale & Yoxford
- Saxmundham
- Wickham Market

Stowmarket

- Bacton
- Battisford & Ringshall
- Chilton
- Combs Ford
- Haughley, Stowupland & Wetherden
- North West Cosford
- Onehouse
- Rattlesden
- St Peter's
- Stow Thorney

High Suffolk

- Debenham
- Eye
- Fressingfield
- Gislegham
- Hoxne & Worlingworth
- Mendlesham
- Needham Market
- Palgrave
- Stonham
- Stradbroke & Laxfield

Section 1.01 Cluster sufficiency overview – Bury St Edmunds

Map of Bury St Edmunds cluster – all providers

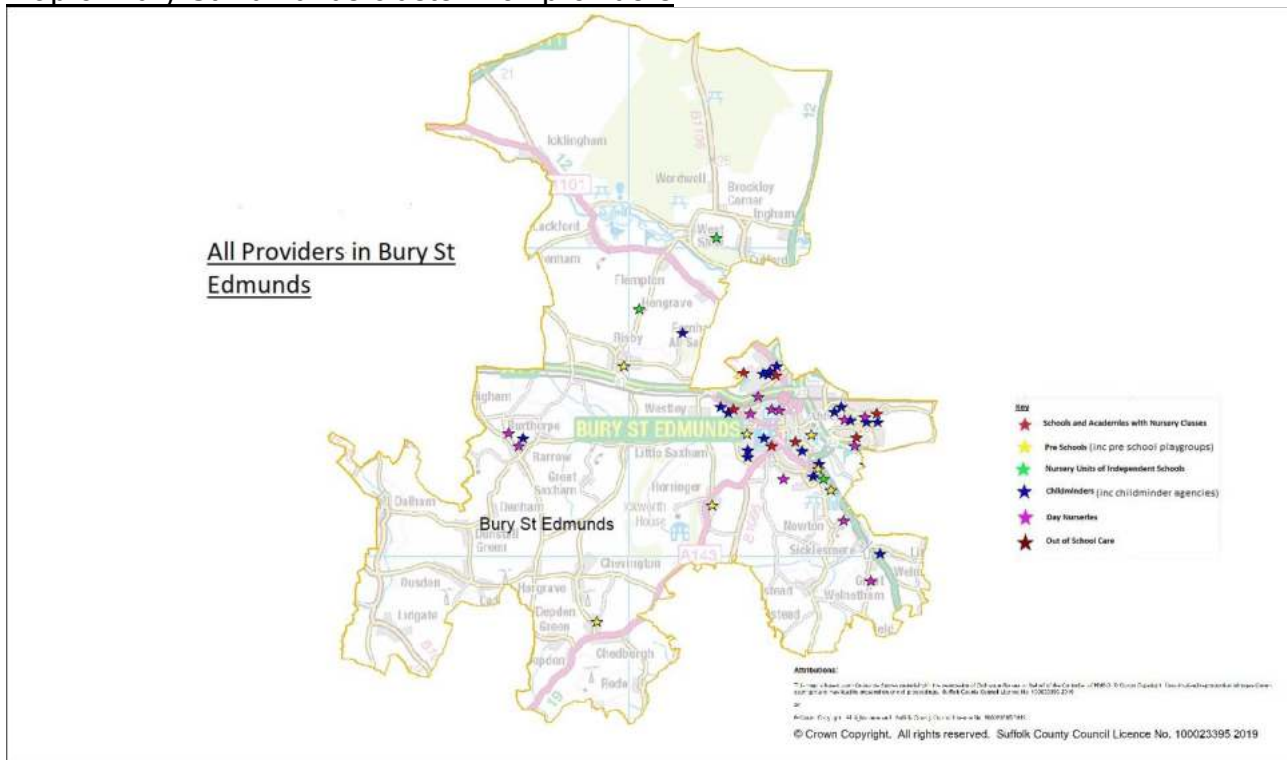


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster

Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	19	4
Day Nursery	11	2
Nursery Unit of Independent School	2	2
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	8	0
State school nursery class	7	0
Out of School Provision	0	3

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	867
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	624
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	821
Surplus / deficit places	197

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	6.7%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1015
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	729
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	821
Surplus / deficit places	93
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	78.4%
3yr olds	89.3%
4yr olds	95.1%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Bury St Edmunds cluster consists of 12 wards; Abbeygate, Barrow, Chedburgh & Chevington, Eastgate, Horringer, Minden, Moreton Hall, Risby, Southgate, St Olaves, Tollgate, and Westgate. Some LSOAs within the Abbeygate, Minden, St Olaves and Tollgate wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

The take up of funded two-year-old places at 78.4% exceeds Suffolk's overall take up for two year olds which is 69%. The take up for funded three year olds is 89.3%, exceeding Suffolk's overall take up of 83%. The take up for four-year olds is 95.1%, which exceeds Suffolk's take up for 4 year olds of 91%.

The data illustrates a surplus of 197 places across the Bury cluster, but when migration of children in and out of the cluster is taken into account, there remains a surplus of 93 places. 54.6% of children living in Bury migrate out of the cluster. 61.3% of children attending Bury cluster provision have come from other clusters, predominantly Thurston. Currently, there is no deficit of places in the wards of Horringer, Moreton Hall, Risby, Southgate and St Olaves.

Several full day care providers in the Bury St. Edmund's cluster report high numbers of children, especially babies, attending their provision.

Local knowledge indicates that full day care provision in Abbeygate ward is currently experiencing high demand for places for babies, two, three and four years olds and operating waiting lists for the next two years. One early years provider is intending to extend their provision to provide more places for babies in 2022.

Following an expression of interest process, the successful early years provider began operating in the Barrow ward from January 2021 for two, three- and four-year olds and has now expanded across two sites to provide full day care for babies. Developer contributions

secured by SCC of £19,685.00 were used to support the provider in enhancing the provision.

In January 2021, an early years provider in the Southgate ward extended their nursery provision to include places for babies. Also in the Southgate ward another early years provider plans to expand further into the Children's Centre to be able to offer more places for 2, 3 and 4 year old children in Spring 2022.

An early years provider in the Westgate ward closed temporarily from January 2021. They plan to re-open in the summer term.

Moreton Hall ward has a variety of childcare provision and is particularly well served by Full Day care.

There are currently no providers in the Eastgate ward.

In addition to the group provision, there are 23 registered childminders distributed across the cluster, 19 of whom take early education grant funding.

SCC is encouraging local providers to network and support each other to meet parental demand in wards with high demand or, where there is additional housing growth, new places are being developed.

Of the 17 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Bury St. Edmunds cluster, the majority of respondents wanted to access childcare to enable them to work. Socialisation for their children was also indicated as important for over half of the respondents in the cluster.

The majority of Bury St. Edmunds cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 and 15 hours funded childcare for two year olds and between 25 and 30 hours of funded childcare for both three and four year olds. In terms of paid for hours of childcare a week, the responses from the Bury St. Edmunds cluster respondents were completely mixed with some parents wanting less than five paid for hours and other wanting over 20 hours and this was the case for all age groups from age zero to nine plus.

Of the families from the Bury St. Edmunds cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed.

For those in the Bury St. Edmund's cluster with babies, the majority of those requiring childcare care used either a day nursery, family member or friend. Preschool and day nurseries were most commonly used in the cluster for two to three year olds and preschools for children aged three to four. For respondents with children aged four to eight, the majority used a family member. Children aged nine plus mostly used before and after school provision.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Bury St. Edmunds cluster expressed a large range of preferences but the majority of respondents said from their childcare provider, a professional working with their child or a government website.

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	-1.9%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	611
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	446
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	365
Surplus / deficit places	-84
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	93.5%
3yr olds	86.4%
4yr olds	93.2%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The **Thurston** cluster covers a large rural area bordering the Bury St Edmunds cluster. The arterial A14 road divides the cluster and it borders with Norfolk County Council. It contains 11 wards; Bardwell, Barningham, Elmswell and Woolpit, Ixworth, Pakenham & Troston, Rickinghall, Rougham, Stanton, The Fornhams & Great Barton, Thurston and Walsham-le-Willows. No wards within this cluster contain LSOAs that fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

Two year old take up in the cluster is 93.5%, which exceeds Suffolk's which is currently 69% for two year olds. Take up for three year olds is 86.4%, which exceeds Suffolk's which is 83%. Take up for four year olds is 93.2% which exceeds Suffolk's which is at 91%.

The data illustrates a deficit of 92 places across the Thurston cluster. After we consider migration of children in and out of the cluster there remains a deficit of 84 places. 47.4% of children accessing provision in the Thurston cluster come from outside of the cluster, predominantly from the Stowmarket cluster though significant numbers also migrate to use Thurston providers from Norfolk. 49.3% of children from Thurston cluster migrate out of the cluster for their childcare.

Currently there is no deficit in the wards of Ixworth, Rougham and Walsham le Willows.

Thurston cluster comprises several villages with no town. There is a range of different types of childcare in the cluster including childminders, full day care and sessional preschools. As public transport is limited between the villages, this can make access to all year round, full day care provision challenging for families.

There is a shortfall of full day care providers in this cluster. In wards with high demand or where there are additional housing growth new places are being developed. Full day care

providers in the Thurston cluster report high numbers of children, especially babies, attending their provision.

Following an expression of interest process in the Thurston ward, an early years provider is now operating from newly built early years provision at the new primary school from September 2021, in addition to their current site. This is as a result of £107,729.00 of developer contributions secured by SCC. This has increased provision for babies and provided additional funded spaces for two, three and four year olds.

In the Ixworth ward in April 2021, early years provision was enhanced as a result of £7,504.98 of developer contributions secured by SCC

In Elmswell and Woolpit wards, Early Years places will be developed in response to housing growth.

In the northern part of the cluster (Bardwell, Barningham, Walsham-le Willows wards) there is a shortage of full day care provision and local knowledge indicates some families are migrating to other areas such as Bury St. Edmunds and across the border into Norfolk.

In Pakenham ward, there is a military airbase at Honington which has 300 houses on site and a further 64 houses are available in the village of Stanton in Stanton ward. Military personnel and their families can be more transient than other families and therefore demand for provision results in peaks and troughs. The ONS data is dependent on the number of military families at the time the census was carried out.

[https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/myscc/CYP_Content_Library/Final Early Years Consultation pack.docx?web=1](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/myscc/CYP_Content_Library/Final_Early_Years_Consultation_pack.docx?web=1) A very small amount of Thurston cluster families responded to some of the survey questions and all stated they had the childcare they needed. All respondents wanted to access childcare to enable them to work and to aid their children's socialisation and learning and development.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the majority of respondents said directly from their childcare provider or via word of mouth.

Section 1.03 Cluster sufficiency overview – Forest Heath

Map of Forest Heath cluster – all providers

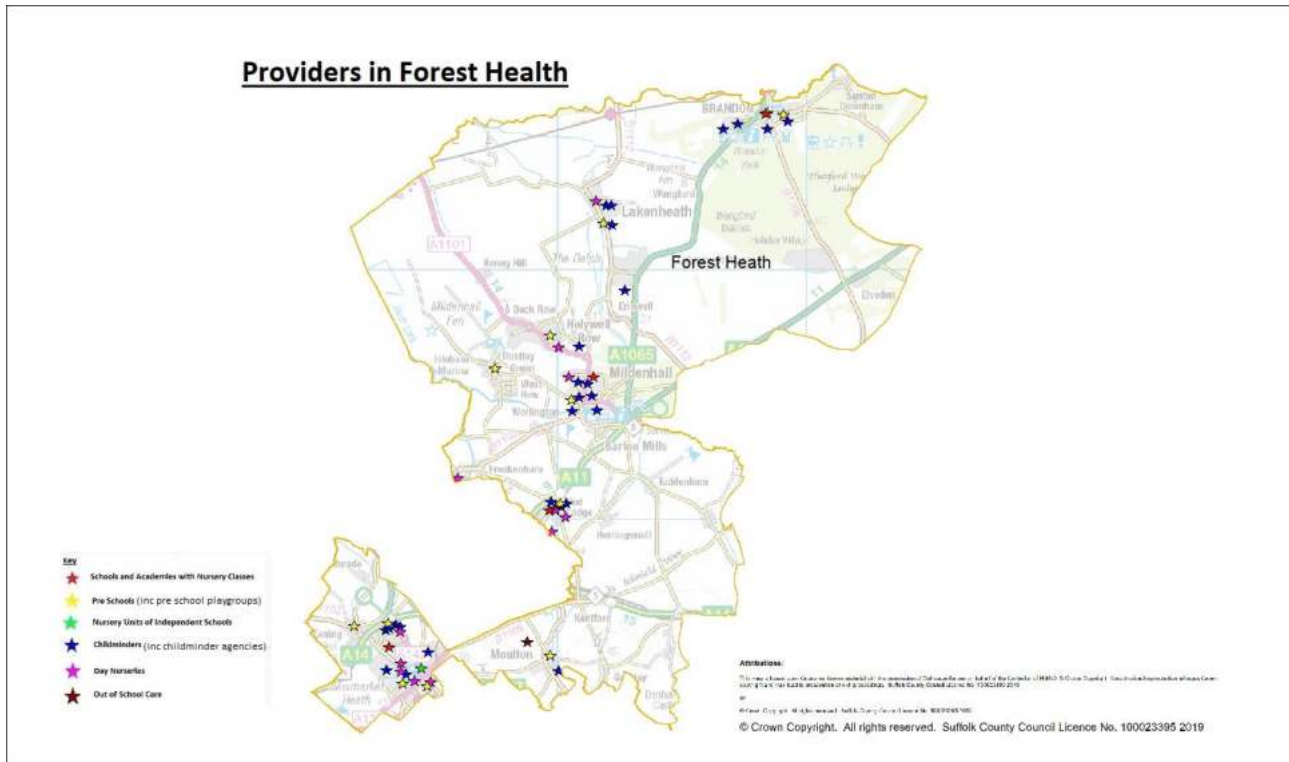


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster

Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	17	15
Day Nursery	13	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	12	0
State school nursery class	5	0
Out of School Provision	0	2

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	1719
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	1242
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	835
Surplus / deficit places	-407

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	3.2%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1803
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	1305
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	835
Surplus / deficit places	-476
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	79.6%
3yr olds	70.2%
4yr olds	79.9%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Forest Heath cluster consists of 15 wards; Brandon Central, Brandon East, Brandon West, Exning, Icen, Kentford & Moulton, Lakenheath, Manor, Mildenhall Great Heath, Mildenhall Kingsway & Market, Mildenhall Queensway, Newmarket East, Newmarket North, Newmarket West and The Rows. Some LSOAs within the Mildenhall Great Heath, Newmarket East, Newmarket North and The Rows wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

Two year old take up at 79.6% exceeds that of Suffolk's overall which is currently 69%. However, cluster take up for three year olds at 70.2% is below Suffolk's 83% as is four year old take up data at 79.9%, compared to 91% for Suffolk overall.

The data illustrates a deficit of 407 places across the Forest Health cluster. After we consider migration of children in and out of the cluster, this becomes a deficit of 476 places. All wards in the cluster with the exception of Mildenhall Great Heath show a deficit of places after migration is taken into account.

54.7% of the children attending provision in Forest Heath have migrated in from another cluster, most usually from the Bury St Edmund's cluster and 51.4% of Forest Heath children migrate to access their childcare in other clusters.

There are two airbases which are home to a large number of Royal Airforce (RAF) and United States Airforce (USAF) personnel in Mildenhall and Lakenheath. The population data gathered is problematic because the population data used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is from the 2011 Census. This data set makes assumptions on the number of USAF children, and this is currently over-estimated in these specific areas.

USAF staff have informed SCC that parents from the base often make use of local childcare providers off base to access their funded entitlement. Parents from the base are

reported to also choose to access the early years PVI sector and school provision until their child reaches the American school age of six years old. Children then access education on the base. Local knowledge from providers also supports this view. Another factor to consider is that charges for on-base childcare vary according to officer rank. Therefore, accessing funded childcare off base is a cost-effective childcare option for many USAF families.

Brandon closely borders Norfolk County Council. The childcare providers in Brandon express that there is limited capacity. As a result of this not all children are able to access their full entitlement of funded hours. This may explain the current deficit of predicted places. Group childcare providers in Brandon offer term time only provision which does not meet the needs of working parents. Suffolk County Council is working with registered childminders to enable them to offer places for parents to use their early education funding throughout the year.

There are a considerable number of people employed in the horse racing industry in Newmarket. This employment places demand for a more bespoke offer of childcare hours. Families often require childcare early in the morning, late in the afternoon and on Saturday mornings. However, because Newmarket closely borders Cambridgeshire some children may be accessing childcare provision in this county. A new Full Daycare provider opened in Newmarket East providing 28 funded places and 6 non funded for children under two.

The Rows ward has a significant deficit of places after migration is taken into account. This is being closely monitored.

In the Manor ward, the only early years provider closed in Summer 2021 with a loss of 16 early education funded places.

In the Kentford and Moulton ward, in Summer 2021, £36,947.60 of developer contributions secured by SCC were used to begin enhancements to provision in the ward. This work will continue in 2022.

In the Newmarket West ward, £12,980.53 of developer contributions secured by SCC were used to enhance a full daycare provision in the ward.

In the Exning ward the only full day care provider is operating a waiting list and currently does not have the capacity to offer all children their full early years funding entitlements.

In wards with high demand or where there are additional housing growth new places are being developed.

In addition to the group provision in the cluster, there are 32 registered childminders, 17 of whom accept early education grant funding. The childminders predominately operate in the cluster's towns.

Of the 48 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Forest Heath cluster, the majority of respondents wanted to access childcare to enable them to work.

The majority of Forest Heath cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 and 15 hours funded childcare for two year olds and between 25 and 30 hours of funded childcare for both three and four year olds.

In terms of paid for hours of childcare a week, the responses from the Forest Heath cluster respondents were completely mixed with some parents wanting less than five paid for hours and other wanting over 20 hours and this was the case for all age groups from zero to nine plus.

In the Forest Heath cluster, the majority of respondents used a day nursery for babies and a day nursery or preschool for two to three year olds. A day nursery was also the majority choice in the cluster for children aged three to four. For children aged four to eight, before and after school provision was used and this was also used for children aged nine plus along with using a family member.

Of the families from the Forest Heath cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, although the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed there were many respondents who said that childcare costs were too high and / or the providers did not offer the hours needed.

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	2.3%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	887
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	636
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	606
Surplus / deficit places	-29
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	100.9%
3yr olds	100.7%
4yr olds	102.1%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Sudbury cluster is focused around the market towns of Sudbury and Great Cornard and the cluster extends to surrounding rural villages. There are eleven wards in this cluster; Assington, Box Vale, Bures St Mary & Nayland, Chadacre, Great Cornard, Lavenham, Long Melford, Sudbury North East, Sudbury North West, Sudbury South East and Sudbury South West. Some LSOAs within the Great Cornard, Sudbury North East, Sudbury North West and Sudbury South East wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

Two year old take up at 100.9% exceeds Suffolk's take up, currently 69%. Three year old take up at 100.7% also exceeds Suffolk's take up, currently 83%, as does four year old take up at 102.1% compared to Suffolk's overall take up at 91%.

There are two main factors to consider as to why take up exceeds 100% of the two, three and four year old population. One is because some children will be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population. Secondly, population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimate of the number of two, three and four year olds living in this cluster.

There is a deficit of five places within the cluster. After migration is considered, the deficit is 29 places. 47% of children accessing provision in this cluster migrate in from other areas, predominantly from Essex County. 44.7% of children living in this cluster who access provision do so in other clusters.

The data indicates that children migrate across wards to access full day care and provision for babies which is mostly located within Sudbury town. There are four providers offering all year round, full day care and these again are located within the Sudbury town and Great Cornard. All school nursery classes in Sudbury town and Great Cornard offer places all day, term time only enabling parents to access 30hrs funded childcare.

In the Long Melford ward in Winter 2021 a new term time only, outdoor provision opened. This serves up to 16 two, three and four year olds for three days a week. This provision offered early education grant funding from January 2022.

In the ward, a full day care provider plans to expand further into the Children's Centre to be able to offer more places for two, three and four year old children in Spring 2022.

Across the Sudbury cluster, there are currently ten registered childminders, five of whom accept early education grant funding.

Provider information also suggests parents from rural locations will often access provision to support their working arrangements, travelling across borders to different wards, clusters or counties. The Sudbury cluster borders the county of Essex and on the ground knowledge indicates children will access providers across the county border migrating in or out depending on parents work commitments. Some children will have split placements with Essex providers, often for the same reasons. The split placements impact on a minimum of five providers within the cluster.

SCC continues to actively work with pre-school providers to develop more flexible provision to meet the needs of working families by extending opening hours, particularly in the rural wards. There are now only two providers in the cluster that are unable to offer parents their full 30 hours funded childcare and this is due to restrictions and access to community shared buildings. Pre school providers are being encouraged to consider opening additional weeks of the year, not only to support development of places but to enable parents to 'stretch' their funding. This can however be challenging for those operating 'pack away' provision from shared community buildings.

In wards with high demand or where there are additional housing growth new places are being developed.

Of the 20 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Sudbury cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Support children's learning and development and allowing their child to socialise were also selected as important for several respondents.

Of the families from the Sudbury cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed. A few respondents who expressed a problem with childcare stated the costs were too high or the hours offered were not what they needed.

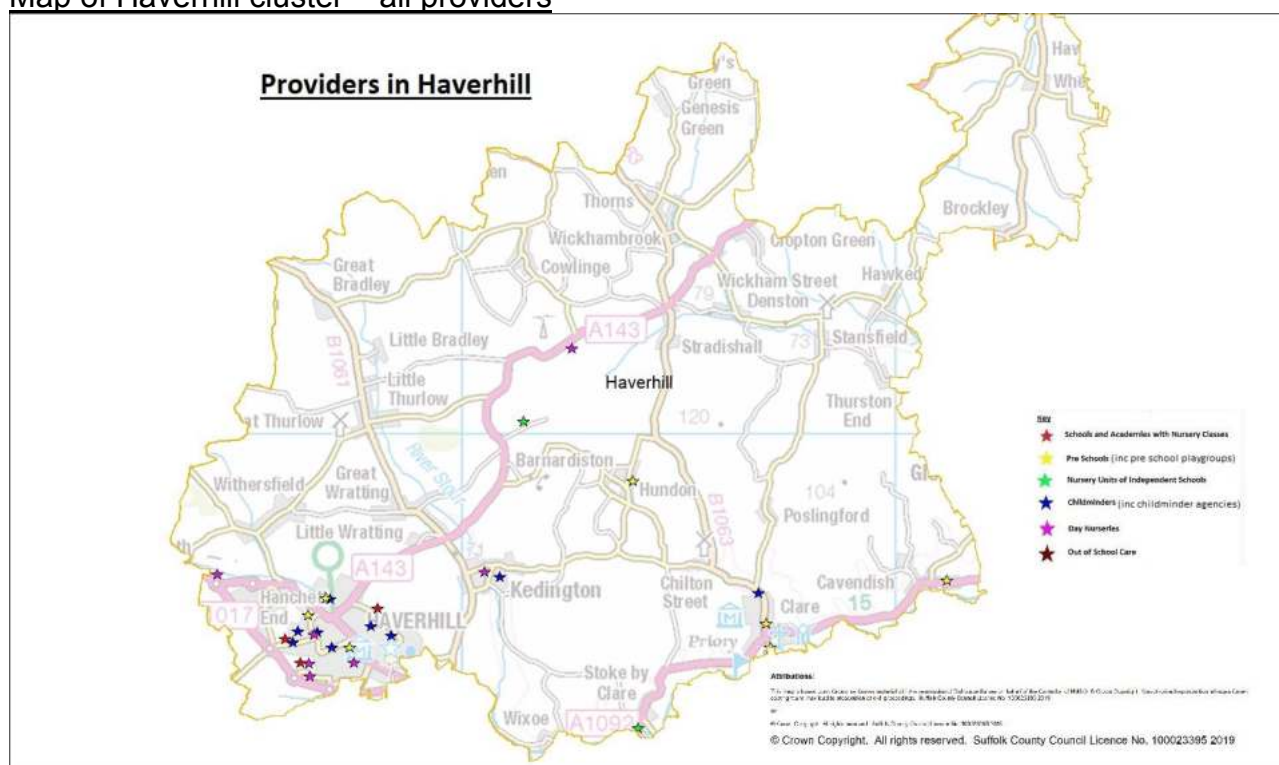
The majority of the Sudbury cluster families who responded, stated they wanted 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds and between 25 and 30 hours for three and four year olds. Most of the Sudbury cluster respondents stated they wanted 20+ paid for hours of childcare a week for their two, three and four year olds.

For those in the /Sudbury cluster with babies, the majority of those requiring childcare care used a family member or friend. Preschool and nurseries were most commonly used in the cluster for two to three year olds and preschools for children aged three to four. Although a range of care was indicated for respondents with children aged four to eight, the majority used a family member. Children aged nine plus mostly used holiday provision.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Sudbury cluster expressed a large range of preferences but the majority of respondents said from a professional working with their child or the childcare provider

Section 1.05 cluster sufficiency overview – Haverhill

Map of Haverhill cluster – all providers



Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	9	4
Day Nursery	7	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	1
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	9	0
State school nursery class	4	0
Out of School Provision	0	0

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	806
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	582
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	506
Surplus / deficit places	-76

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	4.0%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	875
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	634
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	506
Surplus / deficit places	-132
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	98.8%
3yr olds	81.9%
4yr olds	98.1%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

There are nine wards in the Haverhill cluster: Clare, Hundon & Kedington, Haverhill Central, Haverhill East, Haverhill North, Haverhill South, Haverhill South East, Haverhill West, Whepstead & Wickhambrook and Withersfield. It borders Cambridgeshire and Essex County Council. Some LSOAs within the Haverhill Central, Haverhill East, Haverhill South and Haverhill West wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

The take up of two year old places in this cluster is 98.8%, exceeding Suffolk's overall take up of 69%. However, take up for three year olds is lower than Suffolk's with only 81.9% of three year olds accessing funding in the cluster compared to 83% in Suffolk. 98.1% of four year olds take up their funded place in the cluster. This is greater than Suffolk's overall take up for four year olds which is 91%.

There is a deficit of 76 childcare places across the cluster. Once migration of children in and out of the cluster is considered the deficit is 132 places. 58.5% of children living in Haverhill attending provision migrate out of the cluster. Children access providers across the county borders, migrating out and in depending on parents work commitments. Some children will have split placements with Cambridgeshire/Essex providers, often for the same reasons. 62.5% of children accessing provision in Haverhill have come from outside the cluster, most usually from Essex or Cambridgeshire Counties.

The data indicates that children migrate across wards to access full day care and provision for babies which is mostly distributed across the Haverhill town wards. Provider information also suggests parents from rural locations will often travel across borders into different wards, clusters or counties to access provision to support their work arrangements.

The cluster has an approximately even split of group all year round provision and sessional care. There are 13 registered childminders in the cluster, four of whom accept early education grant funding.

In the Haverhill West ward, developer contributions of £40,186.70 were used to enable a term time only, group provider to enhance their provision in the summer of 2021.

In the Haverhill South East ward, a term time only, group provider closed in the Summer of 2021.

In the Haverhill South ward a school nursery expanded its provision to take children from two years in the September of 2021.

In wards with high demand or where there is additional housing growth, new places are being developed.

Of the 27 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Haverhill cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. However, a large number of respondents stated they needed childcare to support learning and development.

Of the families from the Haverhill cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, 21 respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the families who expressed a problem with childcare the majority stated the costs were too high.

The majority of the Haverhill cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 and 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds. For three and four year olds the majority wanted 25 to 30 hours of funded childcare though there were also many recipients who wanted between 10 and 15 hours for three year olds. Most respondents stated they wanted between 15 and 30+ paid for hours of childcare a week for children aged two to four with very few respondents stating their paid childcare needs for children five and over.

The majority of respondents in the Haverhill cluster stated they used a family member to take care of their zero – two year olds a day nursery for their two to three year olds and a preschool for their three to four year olds. A wide range of care is reported as being used in the Haverhill cluster for children aged five to nine plus but the majority of respondents used a family member to care for these children.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Haverhill cluster expressed a large range of preferences. The majority of respondents said via a childcare provider. Many respondents also said by word of mouth, by a school or by a professional working with their child.

Section 1.06 Cluster sufficiency overview – Lowestoft South

Map of Lowestoft South cluster – all providers

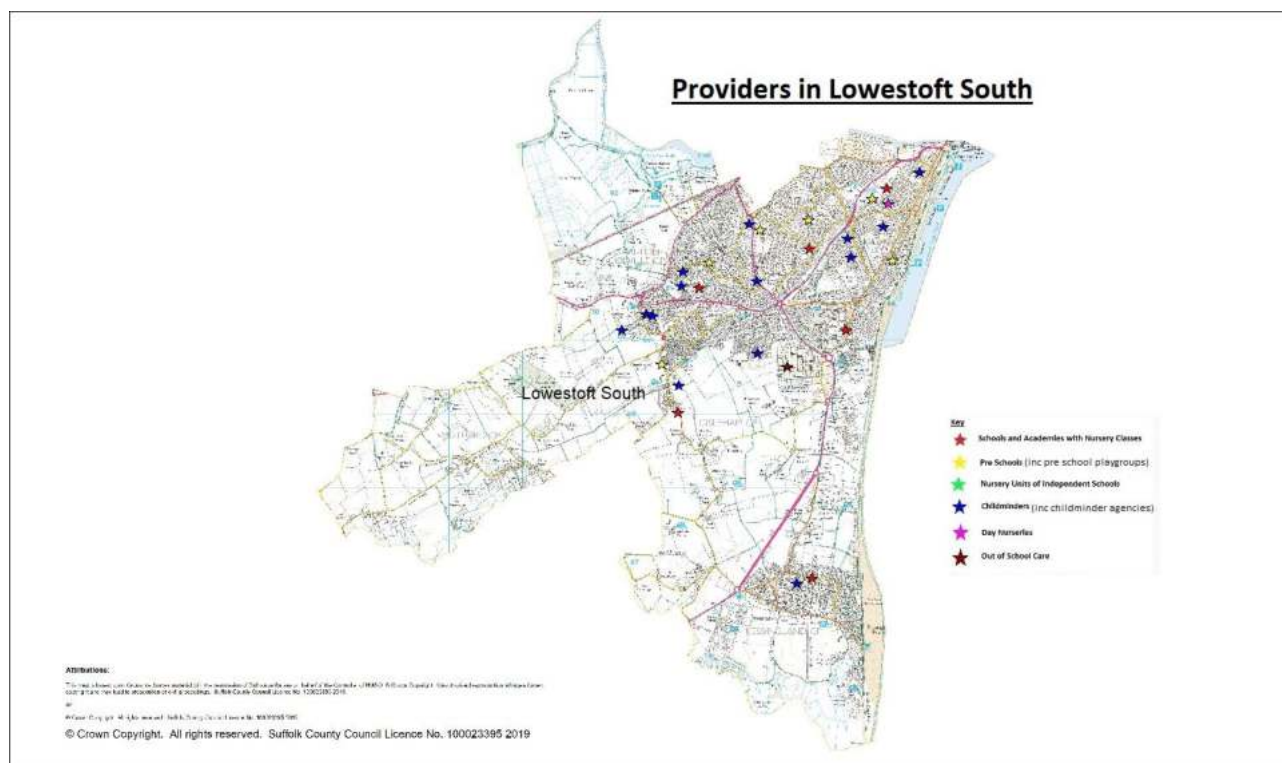


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	17	0
Day Nursery	1	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	0	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	6	0
State school nursery class	6	0
Out of School Provision	0	1
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT</i>		

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	724
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	514
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	399
Surplus / deficit places	-115
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid</i>	

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	-11.4%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	611
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	433
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	399
Surplus / deficit places	-34
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	71.1%
3yr olds	92.9%
4yr olds	91.7%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Lowestoft South cluster is south of the River Waveney and consists of four wards; Carlton & Whitton, Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Kirkley & Pakefield wards. All of the wards include LSOAs in deciles one, two or three (most deprived) with Carlton & Whitton and Kirkley & Pakefield wards having LSOAs that fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.

The main arterial A12 road enters and splits this cluster. The Bascule Bridge divides this cluster from Lowestoft North.

Take up of funded two year old places at 71.1% exceeds that of Suffolk overall at 69%. Take up for three year olds is 92.9%, higher than Suffolk's 83%. Take up of funded four year old places in the cluster is 91.7% and this is slightly higher than Suffolk's overall take up of 91%.

There is a deficit of 115 places across the cluster. Once migration is considered the deficit reduces to 34 as more children migrate out of the cluster than into it. 34.2% of children accessing provision in Lowestoft South come from another cluster, predominately, Lowestoft North and 45.6% of children from Lowestoft South migrate to other clusters for their childcare.

In Lowestoft South there are several different types of provision. Providers offer a variety of ways to access the 30 hours, as either a sole provider or in partnership with others. A deficit of places remains within the Carlton and Whitton and Carlton Colville wards but this has reduced since last year.

Several existing group providers in the cluster have extended their hours during 2021 to provide greater flexibility of the hours they offer.

In the Carlton and Whitton ward, a group provider has extended their provision into a neighbouring building to provide 20 more places on a term time only basis.

In the Pakefield ward a term time only provider closed in the winter of 2020-2021.

Across the cluster there are 17 childminders all of whom accept early education grant funding.

Of the 9 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Lowestoft South cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. However a large number of respondents stated they needed childcare to support learning and development.

Of the families from the Lowestoft South cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority said that the costs of childcare were too high. Many respondents also said the hours offered didn't meet their needs. There were also many respondents who said they had the childcare they needed.

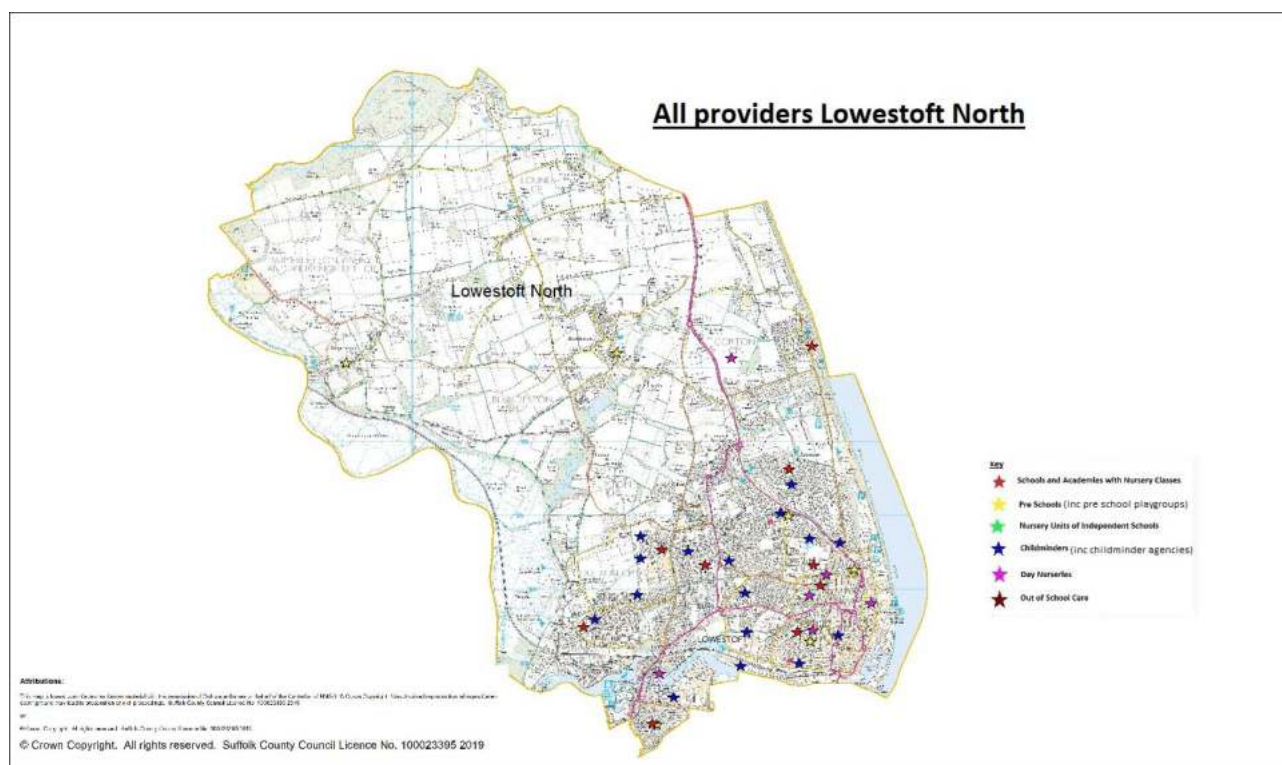
Too few Lowestoft South cluster families responded to comment on the amount of funded and paid for hours needed.

The majority of respondents in the Lowestoft South cluster stated they used a family member to take care of their zero – two year olds. For two year olds, the majority of respondents also used a family member though several families stated they used a childminder and several a preschool. For four to nine + year olds, there were too few responses to comment.

When asked the ways parents /carers would like to hear about childcare provision, the majority of respondents from the Lowestoft South cluster said via the children's centre and many respondents also said by word of mouth or by a professional working with their child.

Section 1.07 Cluster sufficiency overview – Lowestoft North

Map of Lowestoft North cluster – all providers



Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	15	6
Day Nursery	6	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	0	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	6	0
State school nursery class	10	0
Out of School Provision	0	0

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	904
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	632
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	565
Surplus / deficit places	-67

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	8.2%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1013
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	707
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	565
Surplus / deficit places	-144
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	83.2%
3yr olds	97.8%
4yr olds	108.9%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

Lowestoft North is a cluster covering north of the River Waveney and encompasses Lowestoft town centre. It consists of four wards: Gunton & St. Margaret's, Harbour & Normanston, Lothingland and Oulton Broad. Some LSOA's within the Gunton & St. Margaret's, Harbour & Normanston and Oulton Broad wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived) with Gunton & St. Margaret's and Harbour & Normanston having LSOA's that fall within the 10% most deprived nationally. The Bascule Bridge divides the majority of this cluster from Lowestoft South.

Take up for funded two year olds is 83.2%, higher than Suffolk which is at 69%. 97.8% of three year olds from the cluster take up their three year old funding, above Suffolk's 83%. 108.9% of four year olds from the cluster take up their four year old funding, above Suffolk's 91%.

There are two main factors to consider as to why the four year old take up exceeds 100% of the four year old population. One is because some children will be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population. Secondly, population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimate of the number of four year olds living in this cluster.

The data illustrates a deficit of 67 places across the Lowestoft North cluster, after migration of children in and out of the cluster is considered, the deficit increases to 144 places. 28.4% of children accessing provision who live in Lowestoft North attend provision outside the cluster. 36.7% of all children accessing provision in Lowestoft North come from outside the cluster, predominantly Lowestoft South though several come from Norfolk County.

Across Lowestoft there is a variety of different types of provision. Providers offer a variety of ways to access the 30 hours as either a sole provider or in partnership with others.

The north of the cluster borders Norfolk County Council and local knowledge indicates migration both in and out of the cluster.

Following an expression of interest process an early years provider began operating from the vacant early years building on the school site in the Oulton Broad ward. They began operating and delivering early years education in September 2021. This early years provision was enhanced as a result of £5,661.79 of developer contributions secured by SCC.

Across the cluster there are 21 childminders 15 of whom accept early education grant funding. Of those childminders who do not offer funding, the majority offer provision for school aged children only.

A very small number of families from the Lowestoft North cluster responded to some of the survey questions and all stated they had the childcare they needed. All respondents wanted to access childcare to enable them to work and to aid their children's socialisation and learning and development.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents said via their childcare provider, other professionals working with their child, school, local government websites, posters, local radio and via social media.

Section 1.08 Cluster sufficiency overview –Waveney and Blyth

Map of Waveney and Blyth cluster – all providers

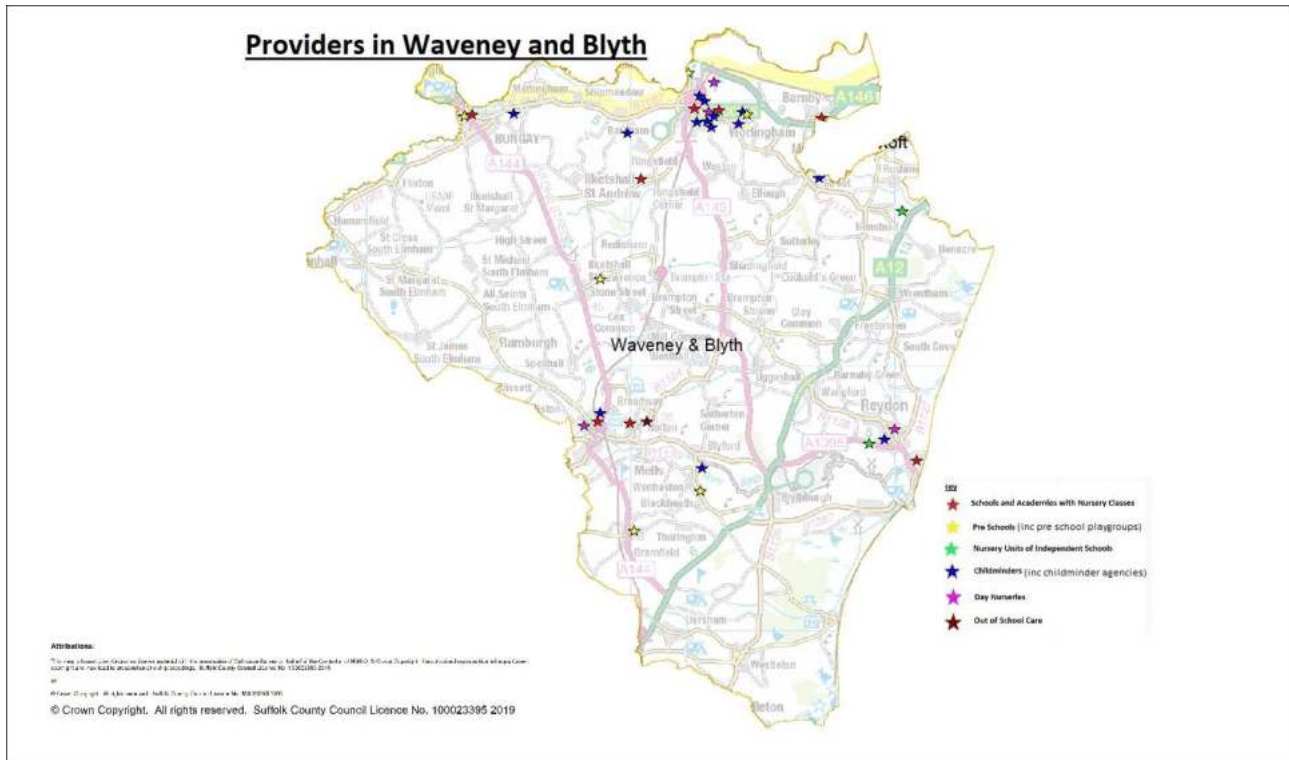


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	11	3
Day Nursery	5	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	2	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	7	0
State school nursery class	8	0
Out of School Provision	0	2
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT</i>		

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	636
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	454
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	404
Surplus / deficit places	-50
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid</i>	

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	6.4%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	688
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	493
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	404
Surplus / deficit places	-92
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	93.2%
3yr olds	91.8%
4yr olds	93.1%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Waveney and Blyth Cluster consists of five wards: Beccles & Worlingham, Bungay & Wainford, Halesworth & Blything, Southwold and Wrentham, Wangford & Westleton. Some LSOAs within the Beccles & Worlingham ward fall within the 10% most deprived nationally. The main arterial A12 road divides this cluster.

Take up of funded two year old places has increased year on year in the Waveney and Blyth cluster from 55% in 2018 to 93.2% in 2021. This year, this is above that of Suffolk's overall two year old take up of 69%. Three year old take up is 91.8% compared to Suffolk's 83% and 93.1% for four year olds this is also above that of Suffolk overall at 91%.

This is a rural cluster with limited transport links. Providers report families without transport find it challenging to access a childcare provider.

Across the cluster there is a deficit of 50 places which, after migration, increases to a deficit of 92 places. 29.9% of children accessing provision in the Waveney and Blyth cluster come from outside of this cluster. They predominately come in from Lowestoft South or Norfolk County. 23.5% of children accessing provision go out of the Waveney and Blyth cluster. Local knowledge indicates many children may migrate to and from childcare providers across the Norfolk border.

In the Beccles and Worlingham ward, a term time only, group provider has recently reviewed their funded offer and now offer more funded two year old places.

In the Beccles and Worlingham ward an early years building is currently vacant. Suffolk County Council hopes to go out for expression of interest for a provider to lease this building in 2022.

In the Southwold ward, new, full time provision for babies and children aged zero to four is due to open during 2022.

In wards with high demand or where there is additional housing growth, new places are being developed.

Of the 31 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Waveney and Blyth cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. However, a large number of respondents stated they needed childcare to support learning and development and socialisation.

Of the families from the Waveney and Blyth cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, 18 respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare the majority stated the costs were too high or the hours offered did not meet their needs.

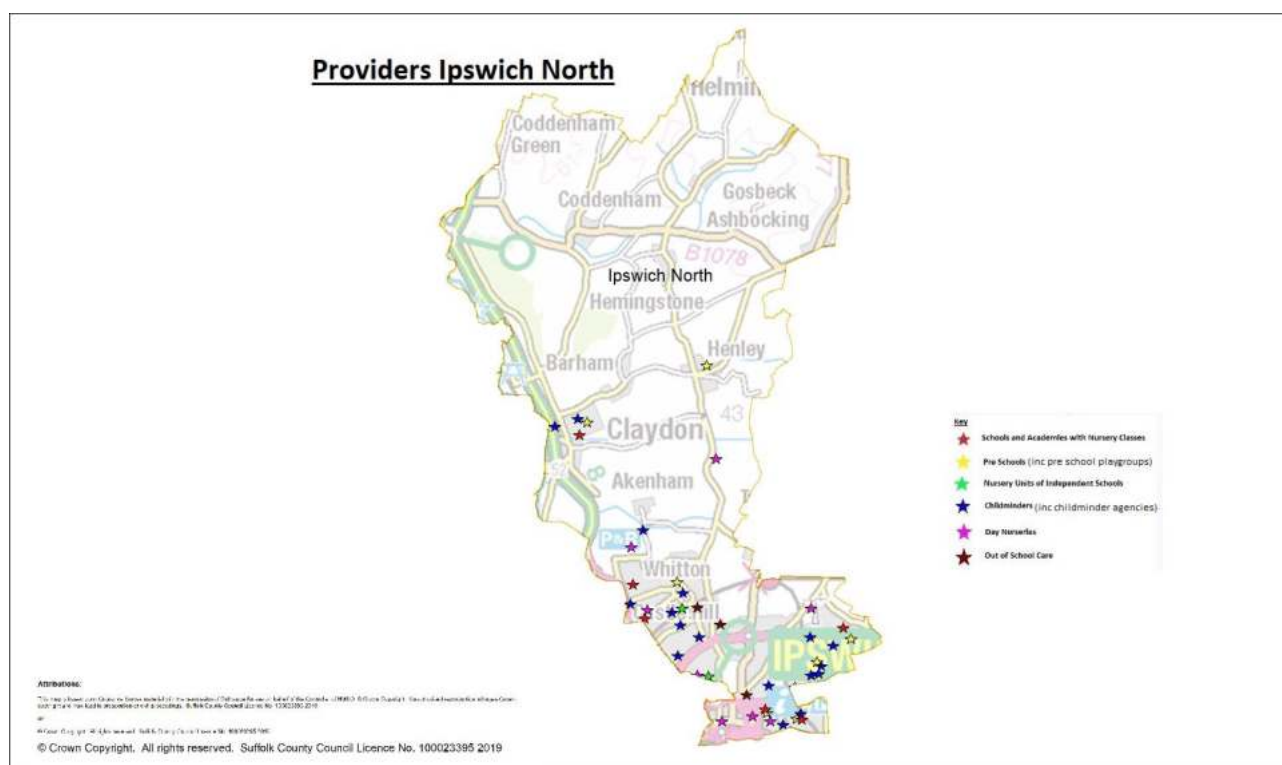
The majority of the Waveney and Blyth cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 and 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds. For three and four year olds the majority wanted 25 to 30 hours of funded childcare. Most respondents stated they wanted 20 hours+ paid for hours of childcare a week for children aged zero to three. Respondents stated a wide range of responses for their paid childcare needs for children four and over, but most were for zero to five or five to ten hours.

The majority of respondents in the Waveney and Blyth cluster stated they used a day nursery to take care of their zero to two year olds, a preschool for their two to three year olds and wide range of provision is used for four year olds in the cluster. A wide range of care is reported as being used in the Waveney and Blyth cluster for children aged five to nine plus but the majority of respondents used before and after school provision to care for these children.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Waveney and Blyth cluster expressed a large range of preferences. Most respondents said via word of mouth. Many respondents also said by a childcare provider or by a professional working with their child.

Section 1.09 Cluster sufficiency overview – Ipswich North

Map of Ipswich North cluster – all providers



Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	14	4
Day Nursery	10	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	2	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	7	0
State school nursery class	6	0
Out of School Provision	0	6

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	948
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	681
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	686
Surplus / deficit places	5

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	6.0%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1076
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	774
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	686
Surplus / deficit places	-90
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	80.2%
3yr olds	93.0%
4yr olds	98.8%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Ipswich North cluster consists of six wards in the north of Ipswich urban area: Alexandra, Castle Hill, Claydon & Barham, Rushmere, St. Margaret's (Ipswich) and Whitton (Ipswich). Some LSOA's within the Alexandra, Claydon & Barham, Rushmere, St Margaret's (Ipswich) and Whitton (Ipswich) wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived) with Alexandra and Whitton (Ipswich) wards having LSOAs that fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.

The take up for two year olds in Ipswich North is 80.2%, high compared to Suffolk's 69%. The three year old take up at 93% exceeds Suffolk's 83% as does the four year old take up of 98.8% compared to Suffolk's overall take up of 91%.

Whilst the data illustrates a surplus of five places across the Ipswich North cluster, after migration of children in and out of the cluster is considered, this becomes a deficit of 90 places. This is because more children migrate into the cluster than migrate out of the cluster. 58.5% of children accessing provision in this cluster come from outside the cluster, predominately from Ipswich West, though several migrate from the Woodbridge Kesgrave cluster. 52.4% of children who live in the cluster go outside of the cluster for childcare.

Across the whole cluster there is a range of provision including full day care, sessional preschools, childminders, independent schools with nurseries, maintained schools with nurseries and one maintained nursery school.

Whitton Ward

Whitton ward is one of the most deprived wards in the county of Suffolk. There are two group providers in the ward. One offers all year round, full day care and one is sessional. There is one registered childminder and one registered out of school provider. Following the successful bid for the DFE School Nursery Capital Fund, The Beeches Community

Primary School has expanded in 2021 and now offers education for children aged from two.

St Margaret's

St Margaret's Ward has a deficit of places, and a higher proportion of children migrate out compared to in. There are two providers offering all year round, full day care but the majority of funded places are only offered during term time. There are three childminders and one registered out of school provision.

Rushmere

There is one group provider offering all year round, full day care. There are two sessional preschools in the Rushmere ward, one of which operates mornings only. There is one school nursery in the ward which currently operates a morning and afternoon session. Five childminders also operate in this ward. There is one registered out of school provider.

Alexandra

Alexandra ward has a deficit of places when migration is taken into account. More children migrate into this ward than out. This puts further strain on a ward in the centre of the town. Development opportunities are limited and challenging. There are four providers offering all year round, full day care but funded places are only offered during term time at one of these. There is also a morning only preschool in the ward, two registered childminders and one registered out of school provision. There are comparatively high numbers of children eligible for two year old funding in and around the Alexandra ward but take up data informs us that many of these children do not take up their two year old funded place.

Claydon and Barham

Claydon and Barham ward includes the villages of Claydon and Barham and has sufficient places. There are more children migrating into this ward than out. On the ground knowledge suggests that the more rural provision within this ward has places available. Claydon and Barham ward neighbours a ward with very limited provision, and significant recent housing development. Children are therefore migrating into Claydon and Barham. The rural provision with places available is statistically masking the real demand. The work of SCC is focused on the pressure point within this ward. Two group settings offer all year round full day care and a third offers sessional care. There are three childminders in the ward

Castle Hill

Castle Hill ward is in the North West of Ipswich. This ward includes a maintained nursery school and a sessional preschool. There is also one all year round, full day care and four childminders. A creche and an out of school provider offer some out of school hours.

In wards with high demand or where there is additional housing growth, new places are being developed.

Of the 16 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Ipswich North cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. To support learning and development and allowing their child to socialise were also selected as important for several respondents.

Of the families from the Ipswich North cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they

had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare most stated the costs were too high or providers did not cater for their children's needs.

The majority of the Ipswich North cluster families who responded, stated that funded hours were unapplicable for their two year old. They wanted 15 to 20 hours of funded childcare for three year olds, but stated that funded hours were unapplicable for their four year olds. This may be as none of the respondees had children of this age. Of those who responded, there was a wide range of needs with regard to paid for hours.

The majority of respondents in the Ipswich North cluster stated they used a day to take care of their children aged between zero and three year olds and a preschool for their three to four year olds. The majority of respondents used out of school provision, a childminder or family member for children aged five to nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, most of the respondents from the Ipswich North cluster said via word of mouth, by the local children's centre or from a professional working with their child.

Section 1.10 Cluster sufficiency overview – Ipswich West

Map of Ipswich West cluster – all providers

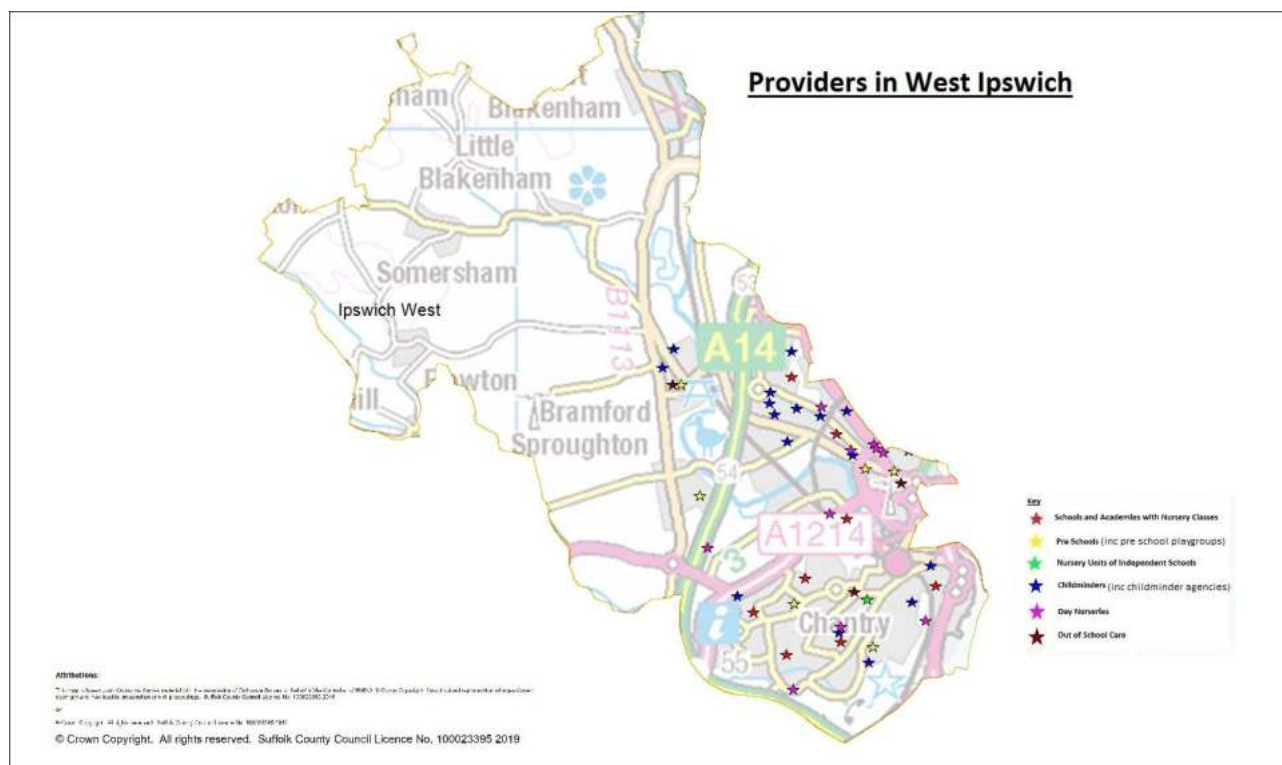


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster

Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	11	7
Day Nursery	11	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	8	0
State school nursery class	8	0
Out of School Provision	0	5

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	1706
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	1198
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	767
Surplus / deficit places	-431

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	-5.3%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1562
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	1095
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	767
Surplus / deficit places	-343
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	75.5%
3yr olds	92.9%
4yr olds	94.3%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Ipswich West cluster consists of nine wards; Blakenham, Bramford, Bridge, Gipping, Sprites, Sroughton & Pinewood, Stoke Park, Westgate (Ipswich) and Whitehouse. Some LSOAs within the Bridge, Gipping, Sprites, Stoke Park, Westgate (Ipswich) and Whitehouse wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived) with Bridge, Gipping, Sprites and Stoke Park having LSOAs that fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.

The take up of funded two year old places has increased from last year and is 75.5%. This year, it is higher than Suffolk's overall take up for two year olds which is 69%. Due to high levels of deprivation in West Ipswich there are significantly high numbers of eligible two year olds. This has an impact on settings and the places available for three and four year olds. Historically, take up data informs us that many two year olds do not take up their two year old funded place so this increase is positive.

The take up for funded three year olds at 92.9% is also higher this year than the Suffolk average of 83% as is four year old take up at 94.3% in the cluster compared to 91% in Suffolk overall.

In this cluster there is a deficit of 431, and after migration is considered, the deficit is reduced to 343 childcare places. 53.5% of children accessing provision who live in this cluster, go outside of the cluster. 48.2% of all children accessing provision in this cluster live in another cluster, mostly Ipswich North. In wards with high demand or where there is additional housing growth new places are being developed. However, development opportunities are limited and challenging.

Bramford and Blakenham

This ward is served by one pre-school. This preschool has been expanded by nine places in 2021 using £45,382.92 of developer contributions secured by SCC. There are extensive housing developments in the area of Great Blakenham and Bramford. Local knowledge

indicates good demand for places currently and demand is likely to increase as the population in the ward grows.

Bridge

There is one provider in the ward offering full day care provision, and a primary school with a large nursery class.

Gipping

This ward is located near to the town centre of Ipswich. It is served by one full day care provider, one provider who operates from eight a.m. to six p.m. term time only and two school nursery classes. All these providers are near major routes in and out of the town. Local knowledge has shown that families have limited opportunities to travel.

Sproughton and Pinewood

In this ward there is one term time only pre-school. There are also two full day care providers and local knowledge suggests that many parents from other wards chose to migrate into these settings.

Sprites

This ward is located on the outskirts of Ipswich town and is an area of disadvantage. It is served by one pre-school provider, two primary schools with nursery classes and one provider offering full day care.

Stoke Park

Stoke Park ward has one provider offering full day care provision, one pre-school provision who offer some holiday care and one primary school with a nursery class. In addition, there is a full-time nursery which forms a part of an independent school. However, funding is only offered here on a term time basis.

Westgate

This ward is central to Ipswich and is on main routes into the town centre. It has a diverse and mobile population and is in an area of disadvantage. There are three providers in this ward which offer full day care provision. In addition, there are three pre-school providers offering sessional care and a primary school with a nursery class. There continues to be high numbers of two year olds eligible for funding in this area and data shows many of these two year olds do not access their funding.

Whitehouse

Whitehouse ward is on the outskirts of Ipswich, close to the A14 and main routes into the town centre. The ward has one group provider offering full day care, one pre-school provider and a high number of childminders who operate in this ward compared to the other wards in this cluster. The primary school has a nursery. There is a permanent traveller site within this ward.

In addition to the above information on group provision, there are 18 childminders in the cluster, 11 of which accept early education grant funding. These are spread across the majority of wards though the majority of the childminders operate from the Whitehouse ward.

Of the 40 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Ipswich West cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Supporting their

child's learning and development and to allow their child to socialise were also selected as important for many respondents.

Of the families from the Ipswich West cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare most stated the costs were too high. Several respondents stated there was no providers in their area of choice.

The majority of the Ipswich West cluster families who responded, stated they wanted 10 to 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds, between 25 and 30 hours for three year olds and four year olds. Most respondents stated they wanted between 10 and 15 paid for hours of childcare a week for zero to two year olds, a range of hours for their two to three year olds and twenty plus hours for three to four year olds.

The majority of respondents in the Ipswich West cluster stated they used a day nursery to take care of their zero to two year olds and a preschool or day nursery for their two to three year olds. The majority of respondents used a preschool, for their three to four year olds and a family member for children aged five to nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the majority of respondents from the Ipswich West cluster said directly from the childcare provider or via word of mouth.

Section 1.11 Cluster sufficiency overview – South Suffolk

Map of South Suffolk cluster – all providers

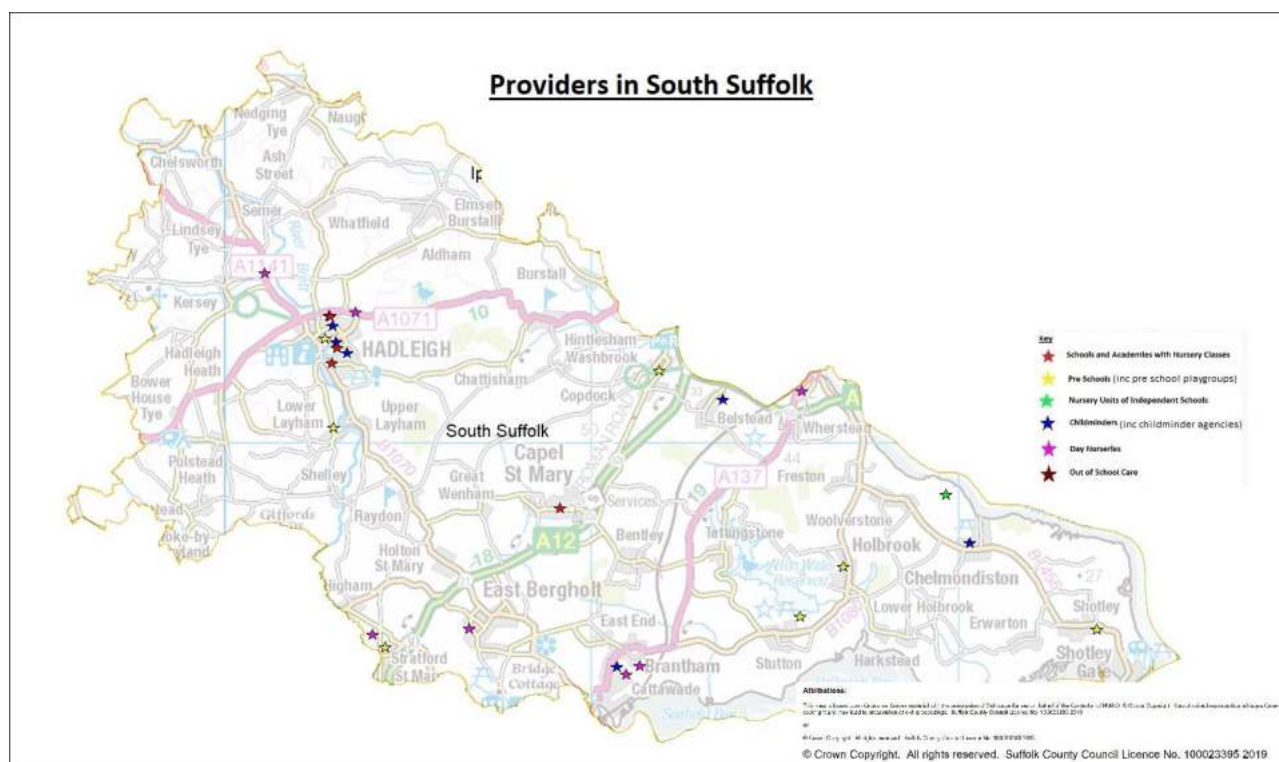


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster

Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	6	2
Day Nursery	9	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	8	0
State school nursery class	4	0
Out of School Provision	0	2

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	493
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	355
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	536
Surplus / deficit places	181

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	7.9%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	570
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	412
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	536
Surplus / deficit places	125
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	96.4%
3yr olds	124.0%
4yr olds	102.5%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The South Suffolk cluster borders Essex County Council. It covers a large area stretching from Shotley peninsula to just beyond and includes the town of Hadleigh. The main arterial A12 road divides the cluster and provides a direct link into Ipswich. It contains eleven wards; Brantham, Brett Vale, Capel St. Mary, Copdock & Washbrook, East Bergholt, Ganges, Hadleigh North, Hadleigh South, Orwell, South East Cosford and Stour. No wards within this cluster contain LSOAs that fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

There is a surplus of 181 places in this cluster. After migration is considered this reduces to a surplus of 125 places. This has almost doubled from last year. This is because a new setting has opened in South East Cosford and a group provider in east Bergholt has expanded.

More children come into this cluster than migrate out and the majority of children in 2021 migrated in from Essex County though several migrated from the Ipswich West cluster. 48.5% of children attending provision in this cluster, live outside of the cluster and 40.6% migrate out. Local knowledge suggests historically that many children migrate in from Essex close to the Essex Suffolk border.

The high take up of all funded children in South Suffolk; two year olds at 96.4% compared to Suffolk's overall at 69%, three year olds at 124% exceeding Suffolk's take up of 83% and four year olds at 102.5% exceeding Suffolk's 91% demonstrates that the surplus of places is not due to a low take up.

There are two main factors to consider as to why the three and four year old take up exceeds 100% of the three and four year old population. One is because some children will be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population. Secondly, population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimate of the number of 3 and 4 year olds living in this cluster.

The cluster has a range of provision comprising full day care, sessional preschools, school nurseries and childminders.

In the South East Cosford ward, which previously had no provision, a group provider opened in 2021. This provider operates from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm, all year round for babies and children from 12 months to four years old.

In East Bergholt ward, a full day care, group provider expanded in Summer 2021 to increase their places.

In Hadleigh there are 170 military houses available. Military personnel and their families tend to be more transient than other families and therefore demand for provision results in peaks and troughs. The ONS data is dependent on the number of military families at the time the census was carried out. Information from the military airbase suggests that there is a desire to utilise the housing at Wattisham military airbase for their families therefore this may result in a decrease of military families in Hadleigh and hence a possible decline in peaks and troughs in demand for provision there.

In Wards with high demand or where there is additional housing growth new places are being developed.

Of the 19 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the South Suffolk cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. To allow their child to socialise and to support learning and development were also selected as important for several respondents.

Of the families from the South Suffolk cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare most stated the costs were too high.

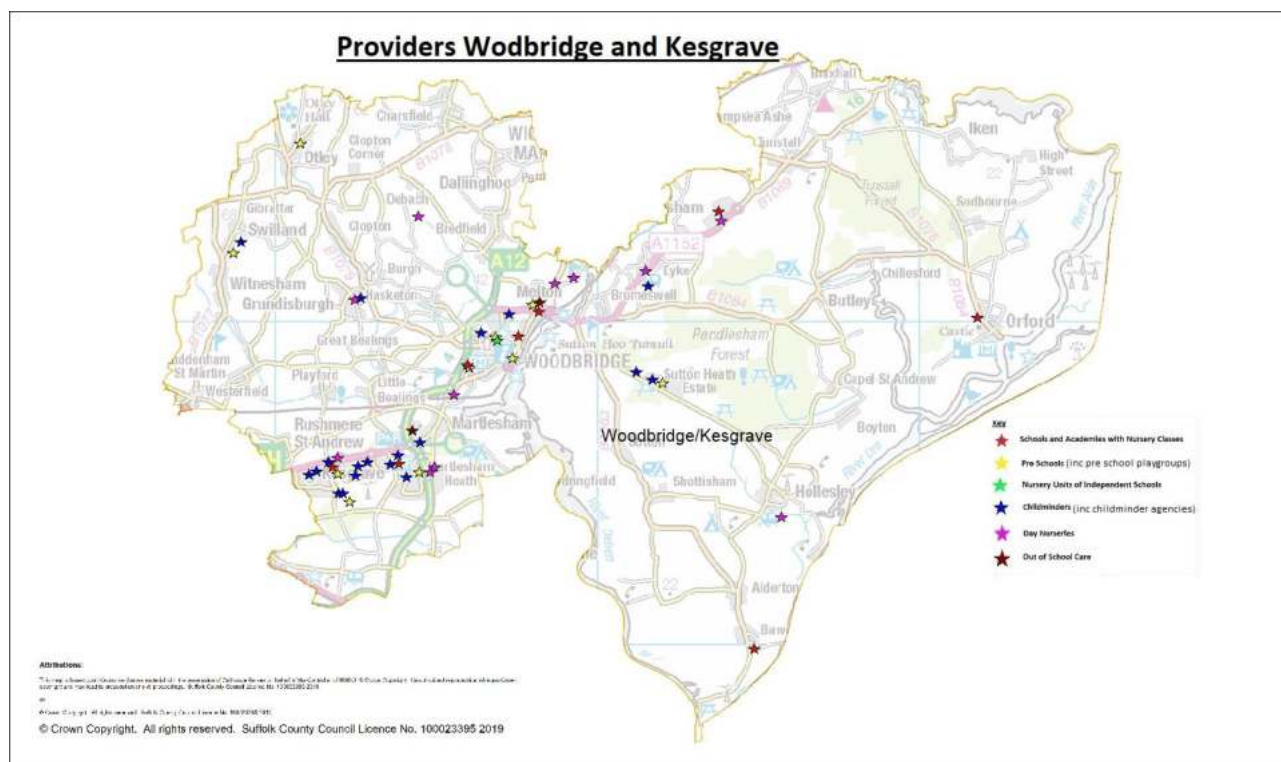
The majority of the South Suffolk cluster families who responded, stated they wanted 10 to 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds, between 25 and 30 hours for three and four year olds. Most respondents stated they wanted twenty plus paid for hours of childcare a week.

The majority of respondents in the South Suffolk cluster stated they used a preschool for their babies and young children aged from two to four though some respondents also stated that they use childminders and day nurseries. Respondents with children aged four to eight stated they used out of school provision, particularly after school. There were no respondents with children aged five to nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the South Suffolk cluster expressed a large range of preferences but the majority said directly from the childcare provider, through posters or via word of mouth.

Section 1.12 Cluster sufficiency overview – Woodbridge and Kesgrave

Map of Woodbridge and Kesgrave cluster – all providers



Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	10	10
Day Nursery	11	1
Nursery Unit of Independent School	0	1
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	11	0
State school nursery class	8	0
Out of School Provision	0	3

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	859
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	627
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	675
Surplus / deficit places	48

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid
 Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	-1.5%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	837
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	608
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	675
Surplus / deficit places	70
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	107.5%
3yr olds	94.1%
4yr olds	98.8%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

There are seven wards in this cluster; Carlford & Fynn Valley, Deben, Kesgrave, Martlesham & Purdis Farm, Melton, Rendlesham & Orford and Woodbridge. One LSOA within the Martlesham & Purdis Farm ward fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

This cluster covers several rural villages and transport can be limited in certain areas. Take up for funded two year olds is 107.5%. This is higher than Suffolk's overall take up which is 69% for two year olds. There are two main factors to consider as to why the two year old take up exceeds 100% of the two year old population. One is that some children will be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population. Secondly ONS population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimate of the number of children living in this cluster.

For three year olds in the cluster, take up is 94.1%, again higher than Suffolk's overall three year old take up which is 83%. Four year old take is 98.8%, also higher than the Suffolk overall take up for four year olds at 91%.

There is a surplus of 48 places in this cluster. However, after migration is considered this rises to a surplus of 70 places. 40.5% of children accessing provision in the Woodbridge and Kesgrave cluster live outside the cluster, predominantly the Framlingham / Leiston or Felixstowe clusters. 42.1% of those who live in the cluster who access provision do so in another cluster.

The A12 is a main arterial road dividing the Woodbridge and Kesgrave cluster and the market town of Woodbridge is the only town. Local knowledge indicated many families are relocating to this cluster from other urban areas following the pandemic.

There is a wide range of provision in this cluster providing sessional and all year round, full day care provision. Across the Woodbridge and Kesgrave cluster there are 20

childminders, 10 of whom offer Early Education grant funding. Half of the childminders within this cluster are located within the Kesgrave ward.

In the Deben ward a new all year round group provider opened at the beginning of the Summer term 2021. This is a 39 place nursery offering full day care provision for zero to five year olds and out of school provision to the local school.

In September 2021, a school within the Melton ward lowered their age range to include three and four year olds. This school also plans to extend its opening hours for three and four year olds in January 2022 to support working parents.

A school nursery within the Woodbridge ward has increased their opening hours for three and four year olds from mornings only to a school day in September 2021.

Of the 21 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Woodbridge / Kesgrave cluster the majority of respondents stated they had the childcare they needed. Of those who did express a problem, most stated childcare providers didn't offer the hours they needed.

Most respondents from Woodbridge/Kesgrave cluster wanted to access childcare to enable them to work. Supporting children's learning and development and to allow their child to socialise were also selected as important for several respondents.

The majority of Woodbridge / Kesgrave cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 to 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds. For three year olds, there was an equal majority between 10 and 15 and 25 to 30 hours and for four year olds, most respondents wanted at least 20 hours of funded childcare.

With regard paid childcare, most respondents wanted 20 hours plus for children aged zero to two and two to three. For children aged three to four, the majority of respondents from the cluster wanted zero to five paid for hours. For children aged four to eight the majority wanted between five and 15 paid for hours with only zero to five hours needed for children nine plus.

Most of the respondents in the Woodbridge / Kesgrave cluster stated they used a day nursery or preschool to take care of their children aged zero to three and a preschool or nursery class in a school for children aged three to four. A family member was the choice of most respondents for children aged four to nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the majority of respondents said via word of mouth. Some respondents expressed a preference to hear about a childcare provision directly from their childcare provider or from a local children's centre.

Section 1.13 Cluster sufficiency overview – Ipswich East

Map of Ipswich East Cluster – all providers

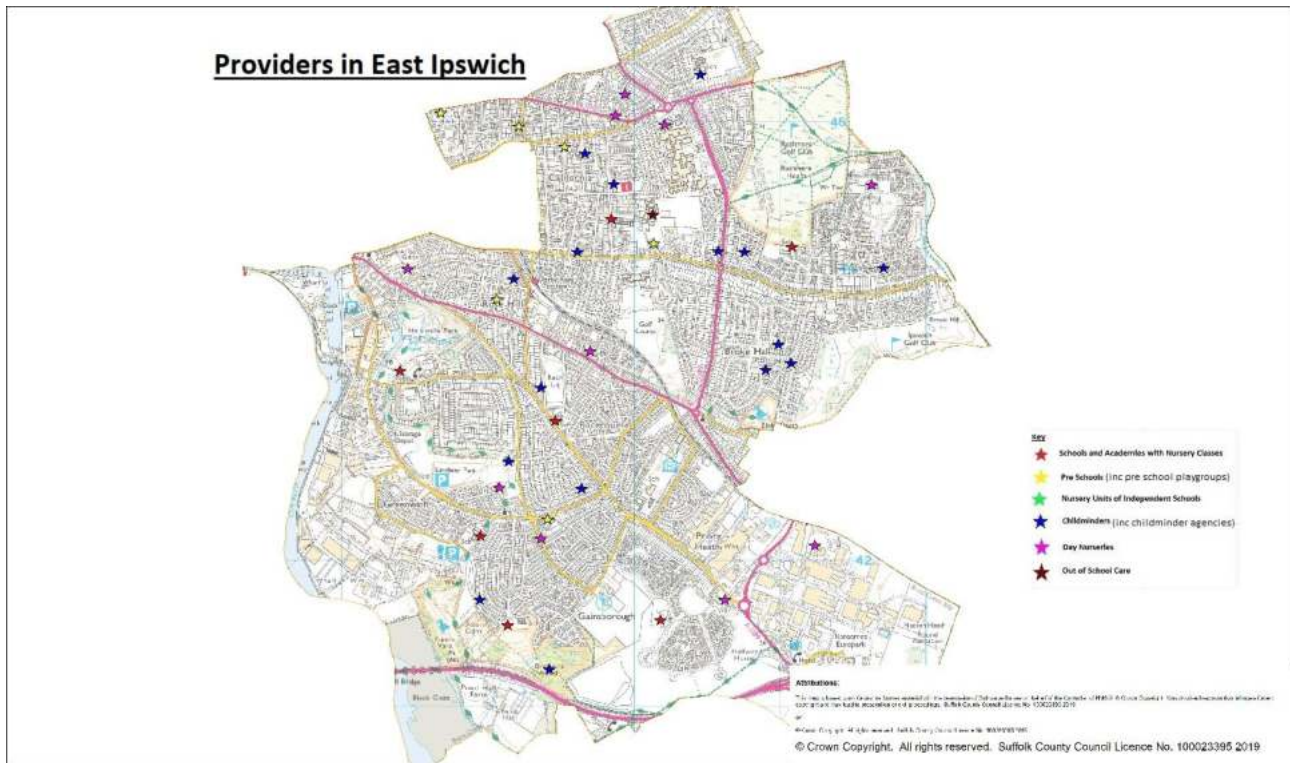


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	11	6
Day Nursery	10	1
Nursery Unit of Independent School	0	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	7	0
State school nursery class	7	0
Out of School Provision	0	4
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT</i>		

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	1131
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	807
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	789
Surplus / deficit places	-18
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid</i>	

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	3.9%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	1221
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	871
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	789
Surplus / deficit places	-84
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	74.0%
3yr olds	82.2%
4yr olds	93.8%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Ipswich East cluster consists of six wards in the east of Ipswich urban area; Bixley, Gainsborough, Holywells, Priory Heath, Rushmere St. Andrew and St. John's. Some LSOA's within the Gainsborough, Holywells and Priory Heath wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived) with Gainsborough and Priory Heath having LSOA's that fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.

Take up of places for eligible two year olds is up to 74% within the East Ipswich Cluster, 5% above the Suffolk average. The take up rate for three year olds is similar to the average at 82.2%, only 0.8% below, and for four year olds, the rate sits 3% above Suffolk's average at nearly 94%.

There is a small deficit of 18 places when considering the population across the cluster. However, with a 3.9% additional number of children migrating into the cluster for their childcare, this deficit rises to 84 places. 58.3% of the children attending provision in this cluster come from outside the cluster. The majority of these children come from Ipswich North. 54.4% of children in this cluster who access provision do so in another cluster.

Tower Ward

This ward has good transport links enabling children to come into the ward to access their provision. There is one full day care provision offering childcare all year round.

Bixley Ward

This ward has three full day care providers, all near major routes in and out of the town. There is a large hospital in this ward and local intelligence suggests that staff living outside this ward access the provision in this ward.

St. John's Ward

This ward is close to Ipswich town centre. It is served by three sessional preschools. There are limits to the time they can provide care because of the restrictions of the buildings that they are operating from. Therefore, meeting working parents' needs is a challenge.

Holywells Ward

This ward is central in the Ipswich East Cluster. In addition to the existing sessional preschool there is a full daycare provider for babies, two, three and four year olds.

Priory Heath Ward

This ward has three providers offering year-round, full day care, plus two school nursery classes. There are major transport routes to other areas in which there are surplus places.

Gainsborough Ward

This ward has providers that offer year-round full day care attracting parents from neighbouring wards. This includes a Forest School.

In addition to the group providers in the cluster, there are 17 registered childminders spread across the cluster, eight of whom accept early education grant funding.

Of the 10 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Ipswich East cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. To access training and for children to access three and four year old funding were also selected as important for a few respondents.

Of the families from the East Ipswich cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they did because costs were too high. Some respondents felt providers didn't offer the hours needed. The second largest group of respondents felt they did have the childcare they needed.

The majority of the East Ipswich cluster families who responded, stated they wanted between 10 and 20 funded hours for three year olds. For those who responded about children aged two and four the responses stated the question was not applicable. Most respondents from all ages stated they wanted between 15 and 20 paid for hours of childcare a week.

Most of the respondents in the East Ipswich cluster stated they used a day nursery to take care of their children aged zero to two and two to three. For children aged three to four, most used a day nursery or nursery class in a school. A family member or friend was the choice of most respondents for children aged four to eight and a friend or holiday provision for those aged nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the East Ipswich cluster expressed a large range of preferences. The majority of respondents said via social media, posters in public places, Family Information Service or SCC website.

Section 1.14 Cluster sufficiency overview – Felixstowe

Map of Felixstowe cluster – all providers

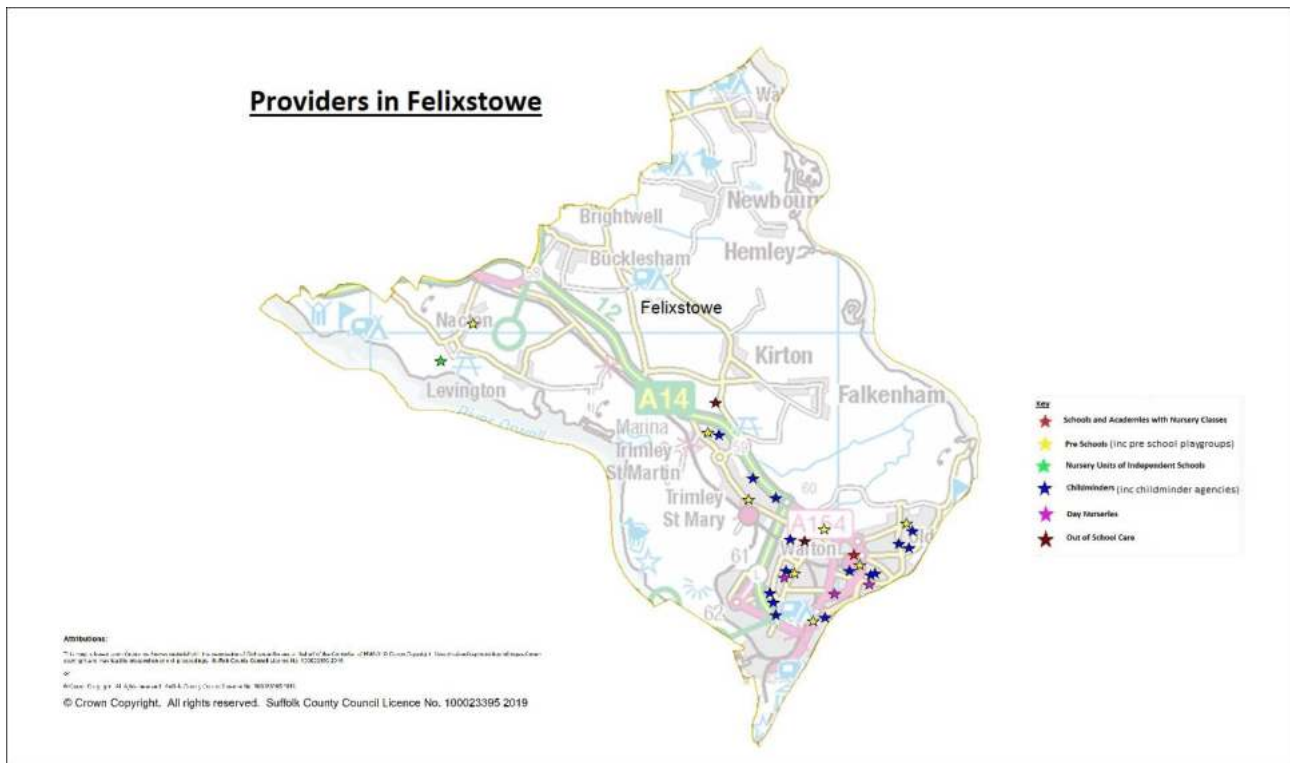


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	10	6
Day Nursery	3	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	8	0
State school nursery class	1	0
Out of School Provision	1	3

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	542
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	387
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	324
Surplus / deficit places	-63

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	-2.1%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	524
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	374
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	324
Surplus / deficit places	-52
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	77.6%
3yr olds	89.5%
4yr olds	105.4%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Felixstowe cluster has three wards; Eastern Felixstowe, Orwell & Villages and Western Felixstowe. Some LSOAs within the Eastern Felixstowe and Western Felixstowe wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

Take up for three year olds is 89.5% higher than Suffolk's at 83%. Take up for four year olds at 105.4% exceeding Suffolk's at 91%. Two year old take up at 77.6% is higher than Suffolk's take up at 63%. Even though the take up for eligible two year old's is higher than Suffolk's, some settings have vacant places. In order to support sustainability they have considered using bespoke marketing to target families still not using their funded place by highlighting the benefits of children attending pre-school education.

Whilst the data indicates a deficit of 63 places across the Felixstowe cluster, when migration of children in and out of the cluster is taken into account there is a deficit of 52 places. 40.5% of children attending provision who live in the Felixstowe cluster migrate out of the cluster. 38.4% of children attending in the Felixstowe cluster provision have come from other clusters, mostly from Ipswich East this year.

The cluster has a variety of providers offering early education funding across the terms and school holidays with some wrap around care for school aged children. Local knowledge indicates some providers in the cluster are full and operating a waiting list whilst other providers report available spaces. To compound the pressure on places in some settings, houses on the new developments across the cluster are steadily becoming occupied and providers have reported they are receiving enquiries from parents for childcare, which some cannot offer depending on their locality.

In the Eastern Felixstowe ward, one setting opened in January 2022 offering childcare for children aged two to four years old during term time.

In the Orwell and Villages ward a new setting is due to open in the summer term 2022 at the premises of a previous setting which closed last year. This new setting will offer childcare for children aged six months to 10 years old with some holiday care.

Of the seven parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Felixstowe cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Supporting children's learning and development and allowing their child to socialise were also selected as important for some respondents.

Of the families from the Felixstowe cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, half of the respondents said they had the childcare they needed, and the other half said the costs of childcare were too high.

The majority of the Felixstowe cluster families who responded, stated two year funding was not applicable for them. The majority of respondents with three and four year olds wanted 25 to 30 hours of funded childcare per week.

Most respondents with children aged zero to two and aged two to three years wanted 20 hours plus of paid childcare. Responses for three to four year olds was mixed with some parents wanting between zero to five hours and some 20 plus hours. For four to eight year olds, some parents wanted between five to ten hours and others wanted 20 hours plus. Respondents stated this question for children aged nine plus years was not applicable to them.

Most of the respondents from the Felixstowe cluster stated they used a family member to take care of their children aged zero to two and a preschool for children aged two to three. For children aged three to four, most who responded with those in this age group used a family member though some used a preschool, day nursery or school nursery. The majority of respondents with children aged four to eight used out of school provision.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Felixstowe cluster expressed a large range of preferences. The majority of respondents said from a professional working with their child or from the local school.

Section 1.15 Cluster sufficiency overview – Framlingham and Leiston

Map of Framlingham and Leiston cluster – all providers

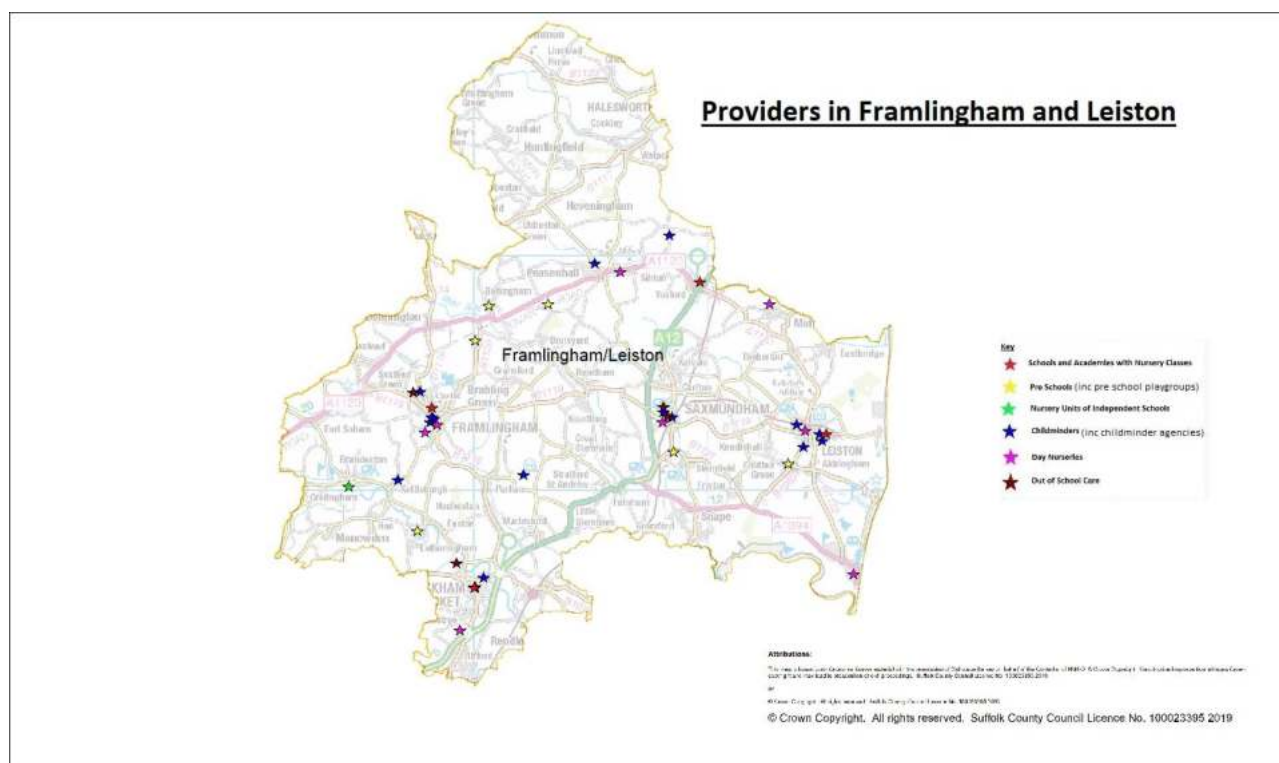


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	12	3
Day Nursery	8	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	1	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	6	0
State school nursery class	4	0
Out of School Provision	0	6
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT</i>		

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	600
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	425
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	411
Surplus / deficit places	-14
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
<i>Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid</i>	

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	0.3%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	603
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	428
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	411
Surplus / deficit places	-18
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	79.2%
3yr olds	97.4%
4yr olds	102.3%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Framlingham & Leiston cluster consists of five wards; Aldeburgh & Leiston, Framlingham, Kelsale & Yoxford, Saxmundham and Wickham Market. No wards within this cluster contain LSOAs that fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

This is predominantly a rural cluster with the main arterial road, A12 dividing it. Providers report that families without transport find it challenging to access the childcare providers.

Take up of places in the cluster for two-year-olds is 79.2% and exceeds Suffolk's overall take up, currently 69%.

The funded take up for three-year-olds in the cluster is 97.4% which is proportionately higher than Suffolk's overall take up for three-year-olds which is 83%.

The four-year-old funding take up in the cluster exceeds 100% of the four-year-old population. There are two main factors to consider as to why this may be. Some children may be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population data. Secondly ONS population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimation of the number of four-year-olds living in this cluster.

There is a deficit of 14 places. After taking migration of children in and out of the cluster into consideration, there is an overall deficit of 18 places. 35.3% of children living in this cluster migrate out of the cluster. 35.6% of children attending provision in this cluster come from other neighbouring clusters, predominantly from the Wavey Blyth and Woodbridge & Kesgrave clusters.

Across the cluster there are a range of providers some offering all year-round full day care, whilst others offer sessional, including childminders, sessional pre-Schools, day nurseries,

independent and state school nurseries. There are a number of out of school providers, however not all of these offer provision for under fives.

Within the Framlingham/Leiston cluster, group providers who are all year round or and offering substantial holiday provision, continue to report high levels of occupancy. Provision which remains solely sessional are reporting lower levels of occupancy. This is indicating a parental requirement for flexible or all year-round care.

There are 15 registered Childminders located within the cluster, 12 of whom offer Early Education Grant Funding. Several Childminders have stated that they will be resigning their registration in Spring 2022.

Following a successful bid for the DfE School Nursery Capital Fund a school nursery was opened in January 2021 in the Aldeburgh & Leiston ward. Snape Primary School Nursery offers full day-care and out of school provision.

An existing full daycare setting within the Saxmundham Ward, expanded their provision further into the Children's Centre, to offer more in 2021.

SCC is currently working to develop places in wards with high demand or, where there is additional housing growth, new places are being developed.

Of the fourteen parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Framlingham / Leiston cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Many respondents also stated they wanted childcare their child to socialise and to support their learning and development.

Of the families from the Framlingham / Leiston cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, most respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare this was because providers were full or didn't offer the hours needed.

The majority of the Framlingham / Leiston cluster families who responded and for whom it was applicable, stated they wanted 10 to 15 hours of funded childcare for two year olds. For three year olds, most wanted between 10 and 20 funded hours and the majority wanted 25 to 30 funded hours for children aged four.

For those with children aged zero to two, a range of paid for hours was wanted between zero to 15 hours. Most respondents stated they wanted 20 plus paid for hours of childcare a week for children aged two to three. Four children aged three to four, the majority of respondents wanted 15 and 20 plus hours of paid childcare per week. A wide range of hours of paid for care is wanted from families with children aged four and upwards with no clear majority shown in the responses.

Most of the respondents in the Framlingham / Leiston cluster stated they used a family member to look after their children aged zero to two. A day nursery was used by the majority of respondents with children aged two to three. For children aged three to four, there was an equal majority of day nursery and family member. For respondents with children aged four to eight, the majority used a family member to care for their children. A

childminder or out of school provision was used by respondents with children aged nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Framlingham / Leiston cluster expressed a large range of preferences. The majority of respondents said via their local school or a professional working with their child.

Section 1.16 Cluster sufficiency overview – Stowmarket

Map of Stowmarket cluster – all providers

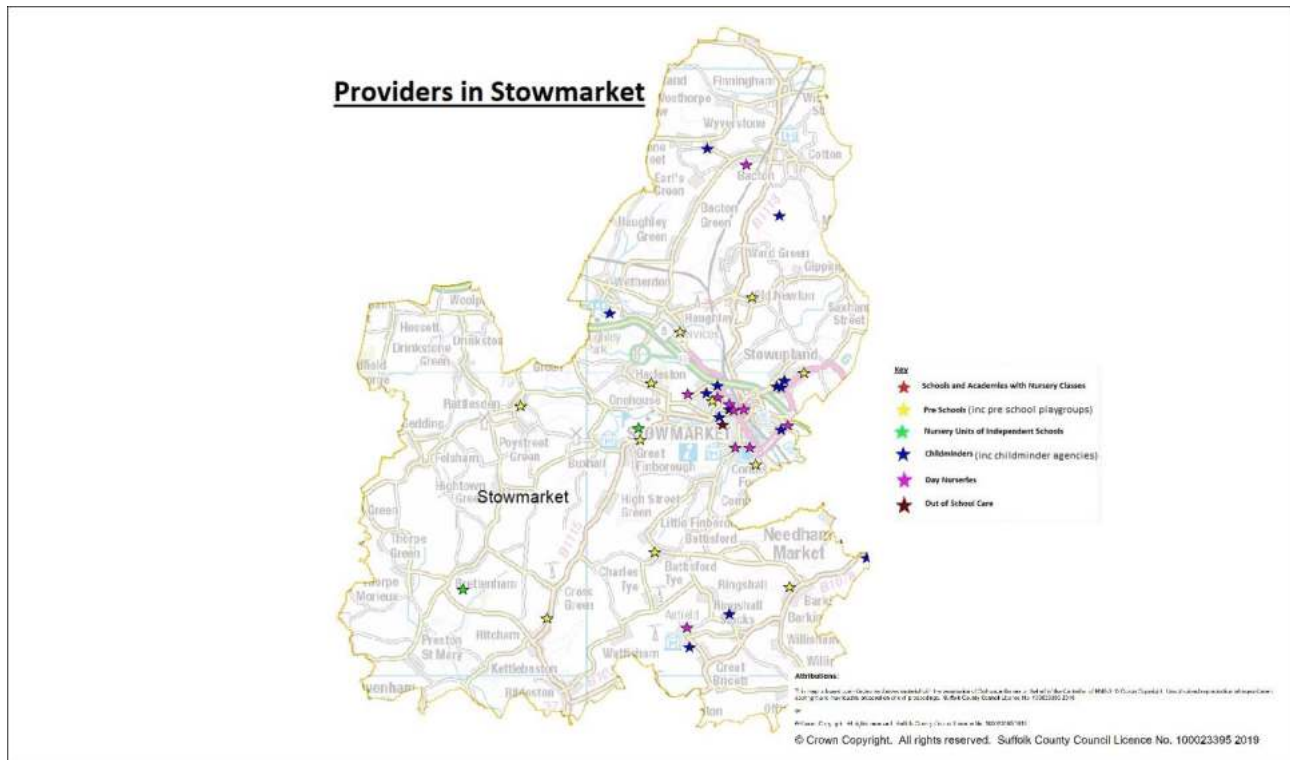


Table 1 No. of providers for cluster		
Provider Type	LoP	Non LoP
Childminder (inc Agency Childminders)	6	7
Day Nursery	10	0
Nursery Unit of Independent School	2	0
Preschool (inc Pre-school Playgroups)	11	0
State school nursery class	0	0
Out of School Provision	0	1

Data Source: 2022-02-11 MERGED LOP & NON LOP PRIORITY SUPPORT

Table 2 Places available for cluster (LOP only)	
Total Baseline Population (eligible 2s and 3s plus 4yr olds)	784
Total FTE needed to meet the population (baseline plus 30 hours projection)	565
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	533
Surplus / deficit places	-32

Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid

Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	1.0%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	800
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	576
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	533
Surplus / deficit places	-41
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	85.9%
3yr olds	96.1%
4yr olds	92.9%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The Stowmarket Cluster consists of ten wards: Bacton, Battsford & Ringshall, Chilton, Combs Ford, Haughley Stowupland & Wetherden, North West Cosford, Onehouse, Rattlesden, St Peter's and Stow Thorney. Some LSOA's within the Chilton, Combs Ford, and St Peter's wards fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

The main arterial road, A14 divides this cluster providing a direct link to Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's towns.

The cluster's two-year-old take up has decreased moderately from the 2020 take up of 95% to 85.9% but remains significantly higher than Suffolk's overall take up for 2021 of 69%. Stowmarket cluster's overall funded take up for eligible 3-year-olds is 96.1%, a reduction from the previous year, however remaining higher than Suffolk's average take up of funded 3-year-olds which is 83%. Four-year-olds funded take up across the cluster closely mirrors Suffolk's take up, currently 92%.

There is a deficit of 32 places across the cluster. However, once migration is considered, this deficit becomes 41 places.

In 2021 53.3% of children accessing provision in this cluster came from outside of the cluster, mostly from the High Suffolk cluster. However, several also migrated from the Thurston cluster. Of the children who attend provision and live in Stowmarket cluster, 52.3% attend provision outside of the cluster.

The Stowmarket cluster comprises of one medium sized town and several villages. There is a range of provision across the cluster including childminders, full daycare and sessional pre-schools. Restricted transport links in rural areas makes accessing sessional village pre-schools challenging. The 13 group providers located within the wards of Chilton, Combs, St Peter's, Onehouse and Stow Thorney generally report high levels of occupancy. Across the 10 group providers located within the more rural wards of Battsford

and Ringshall, Bacton, Haughley, Stowupland and Wetherden, North West Cosford and Rattlesden, take up is typically reported to be lower.

There are two providers within the more rural village located wards which offer provision for under twos. Local knowledge suggests that families requiring provision for babies and toddlers travel into the Stowmarket central wards to access providers within these wards which take under twos.

In addition to the group and sessional providers, a total of 13 childminders operate throughout the Cluster. Six childminders within the cluster are members of the List of Providers (LoP), enabling them to offer Early Education Funding, four childminders are located within the Stowmarket central wards of Chilton, St Peter's, and Stow Thorney. One LoP childminder is located within the Battisford and Ringshall ward, whilst the remaining LoP childminder operates within the Haughley, Stowupland and Wetherden ward.

A 36-place sessional pre-school closed in the ward of Stow Thorney in July 2021 which may have impacted upon the provision available within the cluster. Two childminders in the cluster have also ceased to operate.

A new primary school including purpose built 30 place pre-school provision is currently under construction in the Chilton Ward, which is due open in September 2022.

In wards with high demand or where there are additional housing growth new places are being developed.

In Battisford and Ringshall ward there is a military airbase, which includes childcare provision. There are 250 military houses available. Military personnel and their families can be more transient than other families and therefore demand for provision results in peaks and troughs. The ONS data is dependent on the number of military families at the time the census was carried out. Other housing is currently available in other clusters and wards but information from this military airbase suggests that there is a desire to utilise the housing at the military airbase. There is therefore potential to see an increase in future demand.

Of the 24 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the Stowmarket cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Many respondents stated they wanted childcare to support children's learning and development and to allow their child to socialise.

Of the families from the Stowmarket cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed a problem with childcare most reported the costs were too high.

Of the Stowmarket cluster families who responded, none felt the question on how many hours of funded childcare for two year olds they used was applicable for them. The majority of respondents with three year olds wanted 25 to 30 hours of funded childcare per week, whereas the few respondents with four year olds wanted 15 to 20 hours.

Of the respondents from the Stowmarket cluster with children aged between zero and four the majority wanted 20 hours plus of paid for childcare per week. Most respondents with

children aged four to nine plus stated they wanted between five to ten paid for hours of childcare a week.

Most of the respondents in the Stowmarket cluster stated they used a day nursery to take care of their children aged zero to two and two to three. For children aged three to four most used a preschool. A family member was the choice of most respondents for children aged four to nine plus.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the Stowmarket cluster expressed a large range of preferences including via word of mouth or a professional working with their child.

Table 2a Places available for cluster (LOP only) with migration considered	
NET Migration*	1.3%
Total Baseline Population (adjustment with migration considered)	422
Total FTE needed to meet the population (adjustment with migration considered)	308
Total places available (after SOLD places deducted)	361
Surplus / deficit places	56
<i>Slight numerical differences may occur in calculations due to rounding up of data within Sufficiency Grid</i>	
* A positive number for NET migration means more children migrated into the cluster for places than migrated out. A negative number means more migrated out.	
Data Source: 2022-02-11 2022 SCC Sufficiency Grid	

Table 3 Current take up for cluster	
Eligible 2yr olds	111.4%
3yr olds	120.7%
4yr olds	113.0%
Data Source: 2021-10-21 Take Up Data by Ward Summer 21	

The High Suffolk cluster is predominantly a rural cluster consisting of ten wards; Debenham, Eye, Fressingfield, Gislingham, Hoxne & Worlingworth, Mendlesham, Needham Market, Palgrave, Stonham, and Stradbroke & Laxfield, No wards within this cluster contain LSOAs that fall within deciles one, two or three (most deprived).

In the cluster there is a surplus of 63 places, with this decreasing to a surplus of 56 places after migration is considered. The High Suffolk cluster borders Norfolk and the majority of the 48.3% of children coming into this cluster come from Norfolk County. 47.0% of children migrate out of High Suffolk to neighbouring clusters for childcare.

Given the rural nature of the cluster, provision is scattered across many villages with small populations of children. There is limited public transport which can cause difficulties for families in accessing provision. However, the funded take up data for eligible two, three and four year olds of 111.4%, 120.7% and 113.0% respectively is significantly higher than the average Suffolk take up of 69%, 83% and 91%. There has been an increase in the take up of funding for eligible two year olds and four year olds in the cluster since 2020.

Despite take up showing over 100%, local knowledge and the data shows that eligible children living within the cluster may be using their funded entitlement elsewhere within the county.

Two, three year and four-year-old take up exceeds 100% of population in the cluster. There are two main factors to consider as to why this is. One is because some children will be migrating from another cluster to access provision in this cluster. These children are not included in the population data. Secondly, ONS population data is used as a baseline and there may be an underestimate of the number of the children living in this cluster.

The High Suffolk cluster comprises of the small town of Needham Market, along with several villages. There is a range of provision across the cluster including childminders, full day-care and sessional pre-schools. Restricted transport links in rural areas makes accessing sessional village pre-schools challenging. 21 group providers which includes nine state school nursery classes, are located across all 10 wards in the Cluster.

Local knowledge suggests that families requiring provision for babies and toddlers travel into the wards of Mendlesham, Eye, Palgrave and Fressingfield to access one of the four group providers within these wards which accommodate under twos, as well as accessing this type of provision within the Stowmarket cluster.

In addition to the group and sessional providers, a total of nine childminders are evenly spread across the cluster. Six childminders within the cluster are members of the List of Providers (LoP), enabling them to offer Early Education Funding, two LoP childminders are located within the ward of Needham Market, one LoP childminder is located within the Hoxne & Worlingworth ward, one LoP childminder in the Fressingfield ward, one LoP childminder in the Stradbroke & Laxfield ward and the remaining LoP childminder operates within the Debenham ward.

An existing early years group provider temporarily expanded their provision into the Eye ward for the Autumn 2021 term. This provision has now closed. Two childminders in the cluster ceased operating.

In 2021 an existing full day care provider in the ward of Palgrave moved premises to a purpose-built building, expanding and offering an additional 12 funded spaces.

Of the 18 parents/carers who responded to the SCC childcare survey in the High Suffolk cluster, the majority said they wanted childcare to enable them to work. Supporting children's learning and development and allowing their child to socialise were also selected as important for several respondents.

Of the families from the High Suffolk cluster who responded to the survey question asking if they had any problems accessing childcare, the majority of respondents said they had the childcare they needed. Of the providers who expressed problems with childcare most stated that providers did not offer the hours needed.

There were very few High Suffolk cluster families who felt the question asking the hours needed of two year old funding were applicable to them. Those who did respond wanted between zero to five hours. Those respondents with children who accessed three and four year olds funding stated they wanted 25 to 30 hours of funded childcare per week.

Of the respondents' requirements for paid hours for children aged zero to three years, the majority wanted 20 hours plus. For those with children aged three to four, zero to five paid for hours were required. For those with children aged four to nine plus, an equal amount of respondents wanted between zero to five and between 10 and 15 hours of paid for childcare.

Of the respondents in the High Suffolk cluster with children aged between zero and four, a day nursery is most widely used. For older children aged four to nine plus, out of school provision is used, particularly before school provision.

When asked the ways they would like to hear about childcare provision, the respondents from the High Suffolk cluster expressed a large range of preferences. The majority of respondents said directly from a professional working with the family.