

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report

October 2023



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Introduction

- Buckinghamshire Council (BC) has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare within their area. BC has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 years or up to 18 years for children with a disability. Under section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 BC is required to secure sufficient funded early years provision for eligible children aged two, three and four years of age.
- Two-year-old children whose families meet the relevant eligibility criteria are legally entitled to 15 hours a week funded early years provision. All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours a week funded early years provision (the universal entitlement), with those whose parents meet the eligibility criteria entitled to an additional 15 hours a week (the extended entitlement).
- The sufficiency of childcare assessment (CSA) is a measure of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area for the year 2022-23. Buckinghamshire Council Early Years Service works in partnership with childcare providers to influence childcare provision, as far as reasonably practicable.
- From April 2024 the funded childcare offer is changing, as laid out in the Government's Spring 2023 budget statement (see slide 19). Funded childcare for children of working parents from the age of 9 months will become available in a staged approach within the near future. This CSA sets out the base line for childcare places to support the sector prepare for changes in Buckinghamshire.

Key Priorities from the 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Report

PRIORITY

Continue to assess parental demand for childcare places to analyse and respond to the changing childcare market.

Continue to identify those childcare providers at risk of sustainability issues, and support them with access to business planning tools and bespoke advice

Continue to work with settings to meet the needs of children with SEND and enable early identification of need

WHAT DID WE DO?

- Monitored funding claims and vacancy information to quickly identify providers with low levels of claims to provide business and finance support and prevent setting closures
- Worked with individual providers on marketing initiatives and their childcare
 offer to increase take up of childcare places and sustain their business. Social
 media training delivered to providers to develop online presence and
 increase take up of places
- Worked with providers through the Early Years Forum and a variety of network meetings to explore and remove barriers for parents taking up funded places
- Monitored yearly accounts submitted to the Charities Commission
- Developed business planning tools in response to provider need
- Provided support/advice to providers through a key contact approach
- Supported providers with specialist targeted financial support over sustained periods to ensure their financial sustainability

- Bespoke support and advice delivered to providers by specialist early years teachers, to ensure children's needs were identified early and practitioners were offered support and training to meet children's learning and development needs
- Parents with children who have SEND were supported with information and advice enabling them to access providers of their choosing
- Support was given to providers to ensure that they had a published Local Offer that gave parents the information they needed for their childcare choices

Key Priorities from the 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Report (2)

PRIORITY

Strengthen links with the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

Increase the take up of funded entitlements by promoting the benefits of tax-free childcare

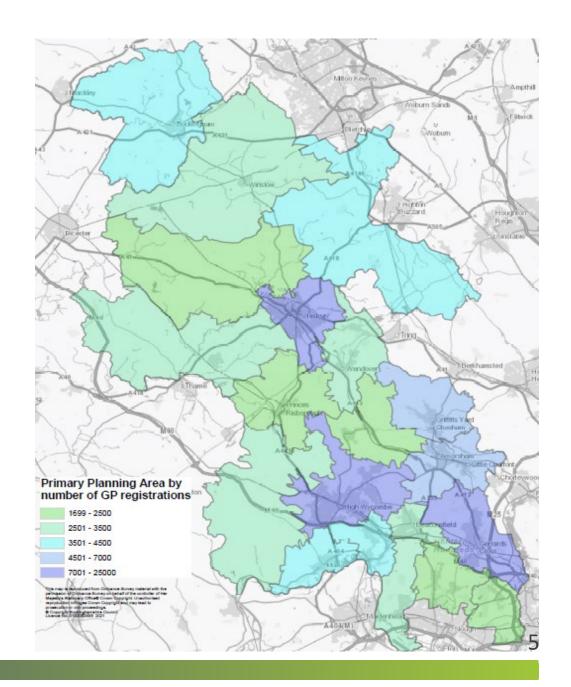
WHAT DID WE DO?

- Partnership working with the HAF programme to provide support and training to HAF providers
- Quality assurance support visits and advice delivered to all HAF providers the
- Identified providers not yet registered for tax-free childcare
- Promoted tax-free childcare to school-based provision
- Take up of 2-year-old places has increased by 7% since March 2022
- Take up of 3 / 4-year-old places has increased by 2% since March 2022

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Child Population by Primary Planning Area

Based on NHS data there are 107,344 children aged 0 to 14 years registered with GP practices in Buckinghamshire. The highest proportion of those registered are in High Wycombe and Aylesbury Town planning areas. See Appendix A for full breakdown by planning area



Pattern of Childcare and Early Education Provision – Under 5s

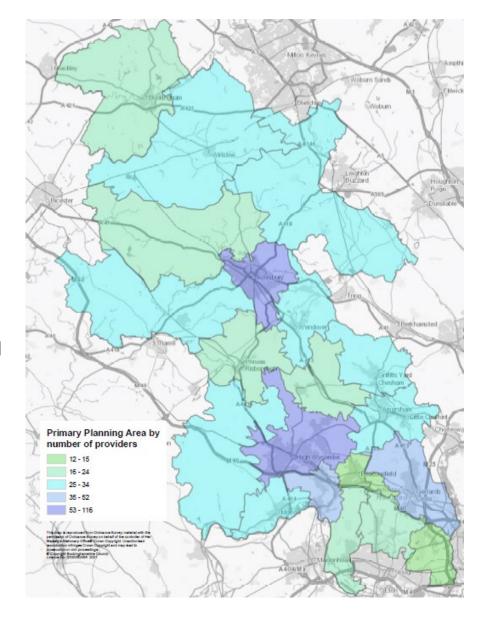
The mix of childcare and early education provision across the county, provides flexibility and choice for parents to work or take up the funded entitlements.

For children aged 0-4 years the number of childcare places has increased slightly by 10 places since April 2022 in a landscape with a decreasing population. Data by primary planning area is available in Appendix B.

Since April 2022:

- 7 new day nursery providers have opened, providing 483 new childcare places
- 1 new school nursery class has opened.
- <u>1</u>1 schools have changed their governance
- 57 childminders have resigned, closing 225 places.
- 10 preschool providers and 1 nursery unit in an independent school have also closed during this time, reducing the number of available places by 184.

	M	ar-23	Change fi	rom Mar-22
	Providers	Max places	Providers	Max places
Day Nursery	112	6825	7	483
Pre-School or Nursery School	120	3786	-10	-184
Maintained Nursery School	3	446	0	0
School/Academy with Nursery Class	61	2734	12	654
School Governor Led Pre-School	28	855	-11	-568
Childminder	376	2333	-57	-235
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	14	704	-1	-140
Total 0-4 childcare	714	17683	-60	10



Pattern of Childcare and Early Education Provision – 5 Years Old and Above

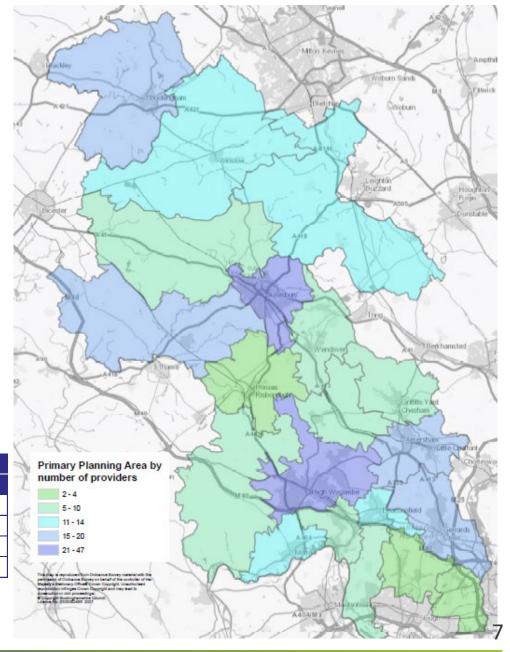
Demand for childcare provision for children over 5 is increasing.

Between March 2022 and April 2023:

- 40 new holiday club providers have been supported to open, offering
 526 new sustainable places to all parents including those eligible for
 HAF
- Out-of-school clubs for children aged 5 plus years have been supported to open creating an additional 455 places

Data by primary planning area is available in Appendix C.

	Ma	ar-23	Change from Mar-22				
	Providers	Max places	Providers	Max places			
After School Club	136	4454	1	41			
Breakfast Club	44	1850	-1	-112			
Holiday Club	80	2416	40	526			
Total out of school 5+	260	8720	40	455			



Pattern of Childcare and Early Education Provision – Holiday Childcare and Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

- Holiday club providers cater for children of statutory school age
- 58% of holiday club providers who are registered with Ofsted are on the Early Years Register and can also provide places for children under 5 years old
- An increase of holiday club provision from 40 to 80 providers between March 2022 and April 2023
- We have supported a provider increase of 80% in the High Wycombe primary planning area.
- Increased parental demand for HAF provision has resulted in new providers offering a range of sustainable provision for primary and secondary aged children of parents eligible for HAF
- Government planned changes to funded entitlements for working parents will increase demand for year-round childcare with holiday clubs contributing to a mixed model of childcare for working families

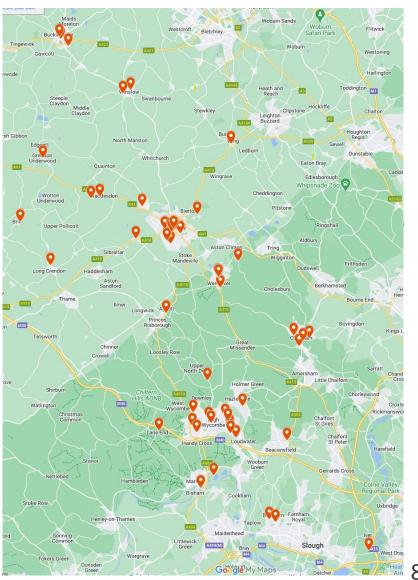
The HAF Programme in Buckinghamshire

HAF activity places are made available to school-aged children in Buckinghamshire in reception to year 11 inclusive who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). In April 2022, there were 10,160 children and young people eligible for FSM in Buckinghamshire.

In line with government guidance, from April 2022 local authorities have been able to use up to 15% of HAF programme places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who the local authority believes could benefit from HAF provision.

A referral system is used in collaboration with schools, social care and family support teams to ensure the allocation of these places goes to the children and young people who will benefit most. Increase in specialist SEND clubs countywide from 1 to 5

Source: HAF annual report 22/23



Children with SEND

Buckinghamshire settings offer inclusive provision and providers' admissions policies, alongside local offer statements, evidence their desire to meet all children's needs including those with SEND

Local Area Inspection April 2022:

"There is a good track record of identifying SEND in early years. Notifications from health practitioners ensure that children with additional needs are identified early and supported into settings that can provide well for them"

Strengths:

- "Early years practitioners are confident and knowledgeable about how to identify potential needs and how to act on these initial concerns. Providers are very positive about the support they receive from the early years SEND team. Support for children identified through the 'assess, plan, do, review' process is led by children's needs rather than formal diagnosis. This means children get the support they need when they need it.
- Social opportunities for children and young people following COVID-19 are still not as well developed as leaders intend. Leaders are continuing to address this, supporting available clubs and activities to increase provision for pupils with SEND. For example, they have trained providers to understand how to include autistic children and young people, including through a conference for the out of school sector and holiday clubs with the theme 'If you only know this, you'll be more inclusive.'"

Challenges:

• Government plans to lower the age range to 9 months for eligible children to access education funded places along with work being carried out by the Early Years Service to increase the number of Early Years Notifications, will increase the number of children in early education provision and the work of the Early Years Service. Work on transitions will be a focus so the experience for families into early education and then into statutory school places is well managed.

The number of providers offering SEND provision during the school holidays to support parents working patterns :

Easter

Providers offering specialist SEND provision – 6 Venues offering specialist SEND provision – 6 Number of SEND specific places – 230

Summer

Providers offering specialist SEND provision – 8 Venues offering specialist SEND provision – 8 Number of SEND specific places – 991 The local offer includes information about each provider's offer to children and young people with a special need and /or disability and is displayed on the Buckinghamshire Family information Service (BFIS) website

In March 2023 88% of providers had their local offer visible to parents on their family information service profile

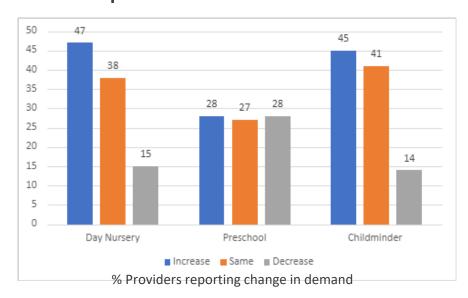
Changes in Pattern of Demand & Unmet Demand

Providers reported changes in demand between January 2022 and January 2023:

The reported increase in demand for places for children under 2 and paid for places for 2/3-year-olds provides evidence of the need to develop more places in this age group.

Existing providers and those new to the market should take these factors in to consideration when developing their business plans.

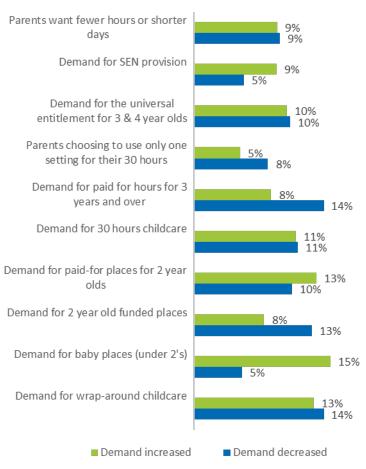
- 14% of providers reported an increase in demand said the increase was for children under 2 years old.
- 14% of providers reported a decrease in demand for paid for hours for 3+ years and for wrap around care.



Responses

- 286 Childminder responses
- 115 Preschool or Nursery
- 104 Day Nursery

Reasons for demand changes

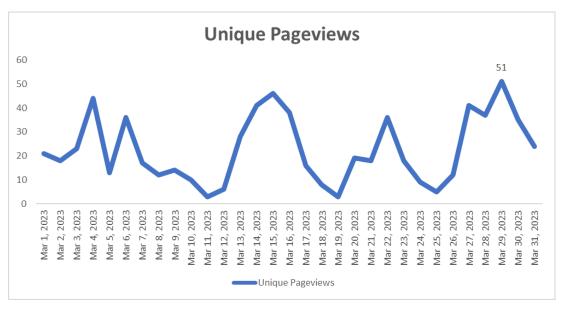


Early Years Funded Entitlements

2-year-old funding

- Take up rates of 2-year-old children accessing their early years funded entitlements are published each year by the DFE and are based on the Census return in January
- The percentage of 2-year-old children accessing their early years funded entitlements had decreased nationally, and in Buckinghamshire, immediately following the Covid -19 pandemic
- Numbers of 2-year-old children accessing their entitlements nationally have gradually risen since 2022
- Currently in Buckinghamshire more entitled 2-year-old children have taken up places in early education than nationally. Buckinghamshire has 79% of eligible children choosing to take up their early education entitlement
- Buckinghamshire is 5% above the southeast regional take up which is 74%
- An increase in the number of applications for 2-year-old funding evidences that the work by the EYS to raise awareness to families who are eligible e.g. by advertising on buses, supermarkets, and via social media is effective
- The peak in unique web page views in March coincides with parents receiving postcards informing them of the 2-year-old entitlement
- Raising awareness of the funded entitlements will continue through 2023 with the aim of increasing the number of children taking up a 2-year-old place and plans to further raise awareness of all funding entitlements
- Eligible parents who have not yet applied for funding will continue to receive reminder mails and supportive personal contact

	Buckinghamshire	South East	England
Funded 2-year-olds			
2023	79%	74%	74%
2022	72%	69%	72%
2021	60%	61%	62%
2020	76%	69%	69%



See Appendix C for description of current entitlements

Early Years Funded Entitlements

Funded entitlements 3 & 4-year-olds

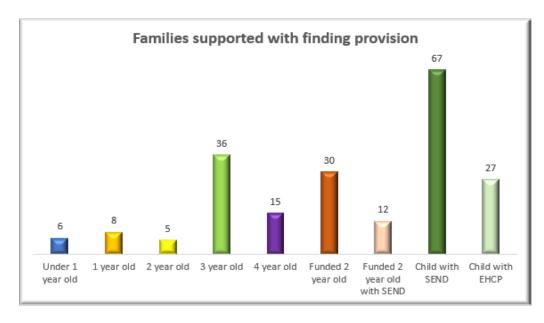
- Parents may choose not to take up their funded entitlements as this is their choice and not a statutory requirement to take up their entitlement.
- The take up of early education for 3 & 4-year-olds in Buckinghamshire is above the national, and regional average take up, and stands at 96%.
- Parents may choose to pay privately for a private provider or independent school who does not offer government funding. Therefore, the number of children accessing early education will be higher than those receiving their government funding entitlement.
- Nannies or Au Pairs cannot offer funded places but support childcare provision in Buckinghamshire by providing childcare at the child's home.
- Grandparents and relatives also provide childcare support which contributes to the number of children not accessing their funded entitlements.

Funded entitlements 3- and 4-year-olds	Buckinghamshire	Southeast	England
2023	96%	93%	94%
2022	94%	95%	92%
2021	91%	92%	88%
2020	92%	94%	93%

The Early Years Brokerage Team supports vulnerable parents, and those with children with SEND, to find a suitable childcare place.

All children who have used the service have been able to access their funded entitlements with a suitable provider.

The graph below shows the support offered to parents across this period.



Quality of Early Years Education Provision

Every child deserves the right to good quality provision. High quality early childhood education can have positive and long-lasting impact on all children's outcomes. Research evidences specific positive effects on children's educational, cognitive, behavioural and social outcomes particularly for disadvantaged children.

There is a range of good quality childcare provision in Buckinghamshire:

- The number of preschool providers with a requires Improvement Ofsted judgement has decreased from 18% in 2022 to 1% in 2023
- The number of preschool providers achieving an Outstanding Ofsted judgement has increased from 18% in 2022 to 20% in 2023

	Summer Term 2022	Autumn Term 2022	Spring Term 2023
Take up of 3/4 year old			
funded places	94.48%	95.91%	95.13%
Take up of 2 year old			
funded places	73.90%	90.46%	89.69%
% of funded 2 year olds in			
good/outstanding provision	96.64%	97.78%	95.84%

The % of funded 2-year-olds in good/outstanding provision is based on provision that have an Ofsted Judgement and does not include not yet inspected provision

Type of provision	Outstanding 2022	Outstanding 2023	Good 2022	Good 2023	Requires improvement 2022	Requires Improvement 2023	Inadequate 2022	inadequate 2023	
Childminder	13%	11%	70%	59%	1%	1%	0%	1%	
Day nursery	11%	8%	88%	70%	0%	2%	0%	1%	
Holiday club	15%	3%	60%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Breakfast club	5%	2%	73%	27%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Out of school	4%	2%	54%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Pre-school	18%	20%	80%	68%	18%	1%	0%	1%	
All registered provision	13%	11%	74%	59%	1%	1%	30%	1%	

Cost of Childcare

The average cost of childcare per hour in Buckinghamshire is slightly above the national and regional average and reflects the diverse population makeup of Buckinghamshire overall.

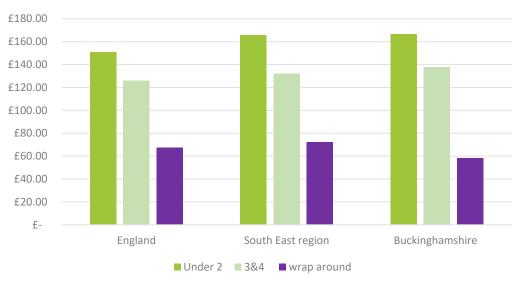
- Childcare delivery for children 2 years, and under, has an average cost per hour of £6.67
- Childcare delivery for children aged 3 to 4 years old has an average cost per hour of £5.05
- Childcare for children 5 years and over for wraparound and Holiday provision has an average cost of £5.85

The data for Buckinghamshire is collected from the childcare Audit in January 2023 and does not include schools that have not indicated childcare costs, as the funded entitlements are delivered completely free at the point of delivery.

Parents can access help towards childcare costs through Tax-free childcare via a registered provider.

76% of providers are registered to provide Tax-Free Childcare.

Cost of childcare



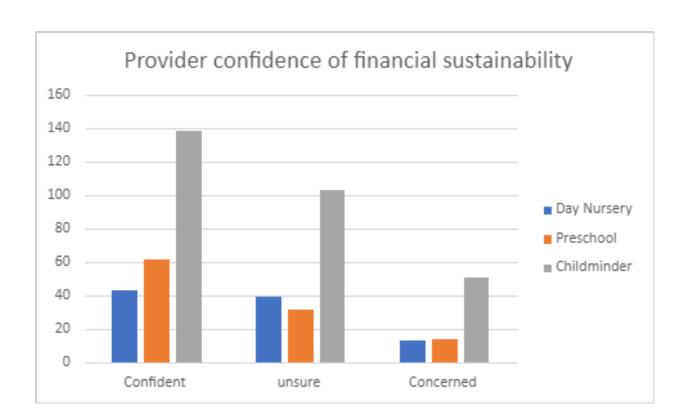
Data: childcare Audit January 2023 (average cost calculated per 25 hours of childcare)

Coram childcare survey July 2023

	England	Southeast region	Buckinghamshire
Under 2	£150.89	£165.67	£166.65
3&4	£126.20	£131.98	£137.68
wrap around	£67.68	£72.19	£58.50

Provider Sustainability

- Since Covid the early years and childcare market has been slow to recover. Parents have changed their pattern of work with many more employees working from home.
- Some childcare arrangements made during Covid have remained in place with parents showing a slow return to using formal childcare.
- The cost of living has risen, increasing running costs for providers.
- Staffing costs have increased in line with national minimum wage and living wage legislation.
- Since April 2022 sustainability grant funding has been awarded to 21 providers to help them recover financially alongside business and finance support and monitoring.
- 836 early years and childcare places were supported to remain open.
- Providers are reporting they are confident of support and advice from the EYS if they are in need and a higher proportion of providers are indicating that they are confident of their financial sustainability going forward than those who have concerns or are unsure

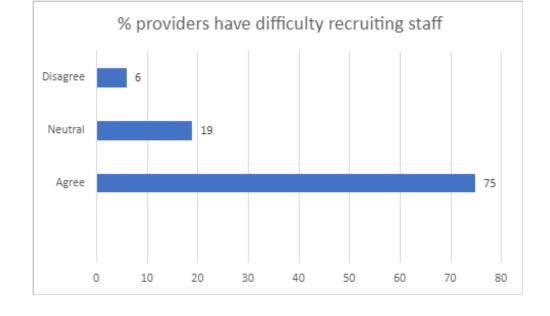


Childcare Workforce Recruitment and Retention

- Buckinghamshire Council invited early years settings to participate in a recruitment and retention survey in June 2023. 75% of respondents said that recruitment difficulties were a challenge and threatened their business sustainability and their ability to increase the numbers of childcare places they offered.
- 72% of respondents said the quality of applications received were not good enough
- 58% of respondents said applicants did not meet criteria needed to work with children
- 32% of respondents said that due to the contract or hours of employment offered it was difficult to attract applicants
- 83% reported difficulty in recruiting level 3 qualified staff
- 34% reported difficulty in recruiting level 2 qualified staff

Providers described the impact of their recruitment difficulties as:

- 50% reported managers were used in ratio and didn't have time to carry out their management role
- 22% reported concerns about quality of provision due to lack of staff
- 21% offered fewer childcare places or closed rooms due to low staff availability



To address recruitment issues some organisations have introduced an on boarding bonus to encourage qualified experienced childcare professionals to join their company and a finder's incentive if existing staff know other practitioners who are then successfully employed. Other recruitment incentives used a range from discounted childcare, better terms and conditions to pay incentives staff shares or health and wellbeing packages.

Support for the Childcare Workforce

Training

To support the quality in Buckinghamshire settings the EYS has delivered or commissioned a range of training to support the childcare. This includes statutory training such as Paediatric first aid and Safeguarding courses as well as curriculum and child development courses to support continuous professional development. Courses to support children with SEND and Autism were delivered alongside networking and training opportunities for role specific practitioners such as SENCOs, managers and designated safeguarding lead practitioners (DSLs)

Qualification support

- Between April 2022 and March 2023 Bursary support for early years practitioners was made available to encourage the take up of early years qualification training for staff who didn't qualify for government support.
- 23 students were awarded a bursary to access a variety of routes to gain early years qualifications.

Outreach programme

Outreach to career fairs, schools, colleges and universities has taken place to promote working in early years and childcare as a rewarding career to young people, and face to face advice on opportunities such as Traineeships, Apprenticeships and qualification routes have been offered. A range of resources for young people and their parents to use to explore careers in this sector have been developed.

Early Years Job Vacancy service

Provides free advertising space for staff vacancies

70% of providers responding to a survey said they have used it successfully to recruit to their vacancies Source Workforce recruitment and retention survey June 2023

Between April 2022 and March 2023 there were 2692 hits on the jobs page of the Early Years Website which is a 40% increase on hits for the same period the previous year.

Early Years service support to gain Qualification Type	Number of students funded
Level 3 Early Years and Childcare Bursary Diploma Route	4
Level 3 Early Years and Childcare Bursary Apprentice Route	6
Workforce Development Grant	8
Retention Grant	1
Total	23

Government Policy Changes

In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced reforms to childcare for parents

- From 2027 to 2028, the government plans to invest £8bn every year on funded hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs, and careers and giving support to their families. This new entitlement will be introduced in phases:
- from April 2024, all eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2024, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 15 hours per week
- From September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 30 hours free childcare per week
- By September 26, all parents of school-age children will have access to wrap-around childcare

To support the growth in the sector the government is proposing:

- An increase in the funded entitlements rates with an Early Years Supplementary Grant rolling out across Autumn term 2023 and Spring term 2024
- Incentive payments to childminders, new to the profession, of £600 per childminder or £1200 when a childminder joins an agency
- To change the staff to child ratio from 1:4 to 1:5 for two-year-olds (optional)
- Funding to local authorities to increase the availability of wraparound childcare
- To support parents to cut the cost of childcare, the government plans to increase money for childcare for those on universal credit to up
 to £951 or up to £1630 for 2 children

Key Priorities Identified in the 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Report

PRIORITY

Action

Assess parental demand for childcare places in line with new government proposals

Forecast changes to demand for childcare taking in to account proposed funding entitlements

Assess wrap around and holiday childcare market

Identify gaps in provision and areas for development in line with government policy changes

Create a range of models available to parents to meet changes in demand

Work with settings to develop offers that meet the needs of parents to access new entitlements

Work with settings to meet the needs of children with SEND and enable early identification of need

Bespoke support and training opportunities are continued with a focus on new childcare entitlements to meet the needs of younger children

Develop the HAF programme to respond to the changing demand for Holiday provision

Work with HAF and mainstream holiday care providers to ensure there is a range of long-term sustainable provision

PRIORITY

Increase the take up of the funded entitlements

Raise awareness of the funded entitlements in the opportunity Bucks wards to increase take up

Improve and maintain the quality of childcare specifically in settings with high numbers of vulnerable children

Support governance models across all providers including schools

Quickly identify providers at risk of closure by supporting providers to self-evaluate and identify actions to sustain their business

Promote Tax Free Childcare and universal credit

Action

- Raise parental awareness of the changes proposed to the funded entitlements, targeting areas where take up is lower
- Create outreach and marketing opportunities to target parents and raise awareness of entitlements
- Provide training opportunities to maintain staff CPD
- Networking opportunities to share good practise
- Provide bespoke support to improve or maintain quality
- Provide bespoke advice to support governing bodies or committee led provision on changes to governance and to ensure compliance with regulations
- Monitor funding claims place take up, and accounts.
- Monitor business models and place availability
- Joint self-evaluation meetings with the EY service and provider
 - Share information with parents looking for childcare
 - Highlight to providers the impact of supporting parents to claim TFC

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Appendix A - Child Population by Primary Planning Area

			(6P Registra	tion Data l	oy Age as a	t 31/08/2	022 (issue	d May 23)							All age
Planning Area	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Groups
Buckingham	189	162	215	222	251	254	250	298	290	268	325	309	300	385	391	4109
Winslow	152	188	192	176	199	217	205	226	259	197	239	255	247	241	254	3247
Waddesdon	81	73	75	96	87	81	121	118	116	129	143	179	143	139	118	1699
Wing and Ivinghoe	211	268	226	266	285	278	274	298	328	323	319	326	329	286	303	4320
Haddenham	197	225	200	231	236	224	214	238	235	257	248	247	226	215	257	3450
Aylesbury Town	1344	1379	1361	1423	1438	1500	1517	1442	1449	1438	1582	1430	1398	1319	1285	21305
Wendover	172	164	173	199	200	189	207	234	215	216	223	242	237	229	218	3118
Chesham	298	314	294	295	339	329	325	338	350	367	362	372	401	378	368	5130
Amersham	222	233	254	262	305	330	385	348	400	421	478	476	457	425	433	5429
Great Missenden	104	99	118	112	134	141	154	152	182	170	224	185	195	192	188	2350
Princes Risborough	128	139	134	153	152	139	167	130	145	166	163	202	160	168	172	2318
High Wycombe	1192	1303	1323	1381	1424	1382	1517	1563	1475	1531	1602	1652	1670	1621	1610	22246
Wycombe West	200	192	189	209	187	207	223	206	197	243	230	238	217	222	230	3190
Marlow	156	189	183	189	235	234	241	261	272	314	297	315	348	322	335	3891
Bourne End	216	247	245	246	271	255	235	256	260	277	264	295	240	283	284	3874
Beaconsfield	123	152	161	166	189	168	218	212	208	239	255	257	255	232	231	3066
Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts	380	412	419	460	468	469	454	462	468	466	536	541	521	504	535	7095
lvers	160	169	158	167	148	164	160	173	146	174	150	157	170	159	158	2413
Burnham	164	173	150	154	159	208	179	187	171	200	190	202	191	175	190	2693
Farnham and Stoke Poges	140	133	136	127	146	139	158	165	177	157	196	161	219	173	164	2391
Total	5829	6214	6206	6534	6853	6908	7204	7307	7343	7553	8026	8041	7924	7668	7724	107334

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

GP Registration Data by as at 31/08/2022 (issued May 23)

Appendix B - Pattern of Childcare and Early Education Provision under 5s by Primary Planning Area

РРА	Day nursery	Pre-school	Maintained nursery school	School nurs ery class	School- managed pre- school	Childminder	Nursery Units Independent schools	Overall
Amersham	7	6	1	4	1	14	1	34
Aylesbury Town	15	12	0	13	3	73	0	116
Beaconsfield	7	2	0	0	1	4	1	15
Bourne End	6	5	0	2	1	32	0	46
Buckingham	4	2	0	2	1	9	1	19
Burnham	5	2	0	2	0	8	0	17
Chesham	5	3	0	5	0	20	1	34
Farnham and Stoke Poges	2	6	0	2	0	13	1	24
Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts	5	8	0	3	0	33	3	52
Great Missenden	1	2	0	0	4	10	1	18
Hadde nham	4	8	0	0	1	16	1	30
High Wycombe	16	19	2	14	4	56	2	113
Ivers	3	3	0	1	1	4	0	12
Marlow	7	7	0	1	1	12	0	28
Princes Risborough	3	6	0	1	0	9	1	20
Waddesdon	1	5	0	1	1	12	0	20
Wendover	7	5	0	1	2	14	0	29
Wing and Ivinghoe	4	10	0	1	3	16	0	34
Winslow	3	6	0	3	3	11	1	27
Wycombe West	7	3	0	5	1	10	0	26
Buckinghamshire overall	112	120	3	61	28	376	14	714

Appendix D - Opportunity Bucks - Priority Wards

Opportunity Bucks is the council's programme to improve opportunities for people in Buckinghamshire. The Opportunity Bucks programme focuses on 10 wards in Buckinghamshire across 3 geographical areas where people are experiencing the most hardship

Opportunity Bucks | Buckinghamshire Council.

The Opportunity Bucks priority wards have a range of good quality childcare options available to parents who need it for work, training or to support disadvantaged families, including wraparound care for school aged children, and holiday clubs to support working families and those eligible for HAF.

To maintain the number of places and range of childcare offers available to parents some providers have received bespoke business and finance support and 43% of sustainability funding awarded went to providers in 4 of the wards maintaining 290 places for parents.

Further support and monitoring of these providers will continue to ensure that places remain available.

Ofsted ju	dgements by	ward and ou	ıtcome			
Ward	Ofsted Outstanding	Ofsted Good	Ofsted Requires Improvement	Ofsted Inadequate		
Abbey	14%	86%	0%	0%		
Aylesbury North	0%	100%	0%	0%		
Aylesbury North- West	67%	33%	0%	0%		
Aylesbury South-West	0%	75%	0%	25%		
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	0%	100%	0%	0%		
Chesham	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Ryemead and Micklefield	0%	100%	0%	0%		
Terriers and Amersham Hill	0%	100%	0%	0%		
Totteridge and Bowerdean	0%	100%	0%	0%		
West Wycombe	67%	33%	0%	0%		

Childcare Type	Abbey	Ward		Cressex stlefield	Totterid and Bower	_	,	nead cklefield	Terri and Amer		West Wycombe		Aylesbury Southwest		Aylesbury Northwest		Aylesbury North		Chesham	
	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places
Childminders	6	38	4	35	6	36	8	47	4	30	0	0	4	33	9	99	7	41	8	53
Preschool	1	32	2	64	1	26	2	84	0	0	1	30	2	86	1	32	1	40	0	0
Day Nursery	5	363	2	90	0	0	0	0	3	208	0	0	2	184	0	0	3	270	0	0
School based Preschool	3	216	1	60	1	60	1	30	3	60	3	90	2	90	2	180	2	120	3	90
Holiday Club	3	195	0	0	1	30	0	0	1	80	1	60	1	70	1	65	4	64	0	0
Wraparound provision	3	120	0	0	1	30	2	120	1	104	0		0	46	1	95	3	30	1	40
Grant awards	()		2	0		i)	0			0	2	!	1		1	L	C)

Appendix C - Funded Entitlements

- Early years funded entitlements are currently available for eligible 2-year-olds the term after their second birthday
- 15 hours of universal funding is available for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- For working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds where both parents or a single parent, work at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at minimum wage are entitled to an additional 15 hours of funding sometimes referred to as 30 hours funding

Appendix E - Funded Entitlements in the Opportunity Bucks Wards

- The average take-up for 3 and 4-year-olds in the Buckinghamshire opportunity wards is 86% which is below the Buckinghamshire average of 93% take-up
- The average take-up of 2-year-old funding entitlements across Buckinghamshire Opportunity wards is 85% which is higher than the Buckinghamshire average of 79%
- An outreach plan is being delivered to raise awareness of funded entitlements in these wards and increase take-up in 2023/24
- Partnership working with other organisations such as Family Centres, Adult Learning, and Jobcentre Plus has been developed to target parents who may wish to use childcare to return to work

Some children accessed funded entitlements outside of their home ward which results in a higher or lower percentage per ward.

3&4 Year Olds	% of Children taking funding	2 Year Olds	% of Children taking funding
Abbey	85.04%	Abbey	63.89%
Aylesbury North	76.92%	Aylesbury North	71.74%
Aylesbury North-West	88.37%	Aylesbury North-West	101.75%
Aylesbury South-West	89.76%	Aylesbury South-West	73.17%
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	77.74%	Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	94.44%
Chesham	78.72%	Chesham	87.50%
Ryemead and Micklefield	87.85%	Ryemead and Micklefield	74.36%
Terriers and Amersham Hill	88.78%	Terriers and Amersham Hill	100.00%
Totteridge and Bowerdean	90.69%	Totteridge and Bowerdean	84.38%
West Wycombe	90.23%	West Wycombe	96.43%