

City of Wolverhampton Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2020

February 2020

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1. Overall assessment and summary

The council is required by law to 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.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, sufficiency is assessed using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available. Information is used about childcare sufficiency to plan and support the local childcare economy.

If you want to apply for a childcare place in Wolverhampton, please contact information for Families (IfF) 01902 554242 or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/childcare-providers

Overall sufficiency in our area

Funded early education for two-year olds

In the city of Wolverhampton there are **3614** two-year-old children, of this number **1618 (44%)** are eligible for Terrific for Twos funding. The uptake of children accessing the funding has declined over time, with the number now standing at **60%**, this is **8%** below the national average.

The council support providers to offer funded places to two-year olds. At the time of this report there are **105** providers offering early education places, with a total of **948** two-year-old children benefitting from a place. This means **670** children are not accessing their funded entitlement. Data is difficult to obtain regarding how many places are available for 2 year olds as providers

availability changes according to demand, however we do know that there are upto **7066** childcare places offered across the city for children aged 0-4 years.

Universal (15 hour) funded early education for 3- and 4-year olds and extended 30-hour offer

All children aged 3 years are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education, in the term after their 3rd birthday. This can be accessed until the end of the term in which they turn 5. A proportion of working families who meet the criteria will also be entitled to an additional 15 hours of funded early education.

In the city we have **3653** 3-year olds that are likely to be entitled to the universal 15 hours and **3764** 4-year olds who could be entitled unless they are attending a reception class. The take up of 3- and 4-year olds benefiting from a funded place is **89%**, this could be both universal and the extended 30-hour entitlement. The number of children only accessing the 15-hour universal entitlement is **2371**, with an additional **797** parents benefiting from the additional 15 hour extended offer.

Children can access funded early education at any Ofsted registered provider, as mentioned previously there are **105** providers offering funded places across the city. It is difficult to obtain figures from childminders and PVI's regarding the number of places they reserve for 3 and 4-year-old funding as this will vary according to demand, however we know that within our maintained nursery schools there are **805** places offered and **3003** places in nursery classes within primary schools. The current vacancies within maintained nursery schools are **299** and **899** in nursery classes, giving a total of **1,198** vacant places.

Childcare before and after school

Dependant on family circumstances a proportion of families will require childcare before and after school and during the school holidays for their children. At the time of this report there are **57** primary schools offering before school care and **52** offering after

school care. There are no facilities of this type in our secondary schools. For the parents who require school holiday care there are **23** holiday clubs.

Across the city we have **91** childminders who are registered to take children of school age, however they may choose not to; again this depends on demand.

Atypical hours outside of 8.00am – 6.00pm.

To obtain data regarding opening hours, we currently rely on providers to inform us. Based on the information returned there are **52** providers offering care before 8.00am and **8** after 6.00pm, this includes childminders and PVI's. Only one provider provides care at the weekend.

City of Wolverhampton's plans to increase uptake of childcare places

- Refresh of correspondence to families following DWP lists
- Refreshed campaign literature shared with settings and at other public places, linked to the Hungry Little Minds launch
- Large scale banners and high profile city centre advertising
- City-wide and Black Country events linked to the Early Outcomes Fund (EOF) such as story-telling and sensory walks for children and families – attendance of EY Q&A officers to promote take up
- Early Years Quality and Access Officers working directly on local marketing with schools and settings identified with capacity to take on more children
- Wolverhampton Information Network audit and update of information base
- Work with colleagues in the council's call centre (information for families) to ensure smooth processes for managing parental enquiries
- Find ways to further engage with parents regarding their child care needs ensuring this covers all wards in the city

- Improved partnership working through the early years steering group, the EOF, the healthy child programme delivery group and across children's services and public health.
- Focus on school readiness across all stakeholder groups enabling an emphasis on early education and childcare
- Restructure and reorganisation of the early help and early years teams to create greater opportunities for collaboration, training and assessment moderation between schools and PVI settings
- Use of the DfE toolkits and resources where appropriate, including to update terms and conditions

2 Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

In total, there are **18026** children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3481
Age 1	3514
Age 2	3614
Age 3	3653
Age 4*	3764

** Some four-year-olds will have started reception*

Source: WVInsight

Population of school age children

In total there are **25490** children aged 5-11, and **9591** children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays. *Source WVInsight*

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3747
Age 6	3694
Age 7	3791
Age 8	3732
Age 9	3593
Age 10	3393
Age 11	3540
Age 12	3275
Age 13	3176

Age 14	3140
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Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Age	Number of children
Birth to 3 years	5
Primary school (reception to year six)	679
Secondary school (year seven to fourteen)	712

Source: Insight and Performance team, ONE System October 2019

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 needs being identified, to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEND but do not have an EHC plan.

Characteristics of children in our area

- **English language status:** 29.3% of primary school children and overall primary and secondary 28.5%. of children aged 3 – 15 years do not have English as a first language
- **Deprivation:** 27.1% of children aged 3 – 15 years live in deprivation.
- **Parents working status:** 25.4% of all children under 16 years live in households that are workless
- **Ethnicity:** 44.7% of 0 – 15 year olds are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Source: WVInsight, Annual Population Survey 2018 (ONS) LAIT

3 Supply of childcare

Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are **203** childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of **7066** early years childcare places:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders*	91	546*
Nursery classes in schools	58	3003
Maintained nursery schools	7	805
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	47	2712 **

Source: LA data/Early years

The data in this table was correct in: November 2019

** Some childminder places may also be available for older children*

*** Based on returned monitoring forms and Servelec.*

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

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

Early years vacancies

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Total number of vacancies</i>
Childminders*	N/A	N/A
Nursery classes in schools	58	899
Maintained nursery schools	7	299
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	N/A	N/A

Source: LA data/early years

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

Early years atypical hours

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

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

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Available before 8am weekdays</i>	<i>Available after 6pm weekdays</i>	<i>Available weekends¹</i>
Childminders *	33	28	4	1
Nursery classes in schools	0	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries *	46	24	4	0

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

**Based on 39 childminder and 22 PVI forms returned*

Source: LA data/early years

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are **109** providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and **23** providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also **91** childminders who may provide care for school age children.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	57
After-school club – primary school	52
Breakfast club – secondary school	0
After-school club – secondary school	0
Childminders*	91
Holiday club	23

Source: School Census 2019 – based on LA maintained schools

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

School age atypical

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

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

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Available before 8am weekdays</i>	<i>Available after 6pm weekdays</i>	<i>Available weekends²</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	57	16	N/A	N/A
After-school club – primary school	52	N/A	0	N/A
Childminders *	33	28	4	1
Holiday club	23	5	0	0

Source: LA data/early years

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

4 Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 2 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. Nationally, about 40% of 2-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.

Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In our local authority, 44% of 2-year olds are entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 1618 children per year in 2019.

This calculation only includes children who are eligible based on income, and not the children who are eligible on the basis of disability or being/having been looked after.

Source DWP 2019

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 our local authority is:

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	60%
Age 3 and 4	89%

Source: LAIT 2019

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>
Childminders	60
Nursery classes in schools	58
Maintained nursery schools	7
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	46

Source: LA data/Early Years

5 Prices

Prices of early school years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices, reported to us by settings. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Childminders
0 - 4-year olds	£41.31 (full day)	£4.00 (per hour)

Source: Provider monitoring forms

Prices of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding, per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per day.

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£4.75
After-school club per day	£6.17
School age childminder per hour	£4.00
Holiday club per day	£22.25

Source: Provider monitoring forms

6 Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection outcomes

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give 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 most also have a separate early year's grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'. 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.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>	<i>% achieving good or outstanding</i>
Childminders	91	70%
Nursery classes in schools *	58	90%
Maintained nursery schools	7	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	47	77.7%
Total	204	77%

*Overall school grade

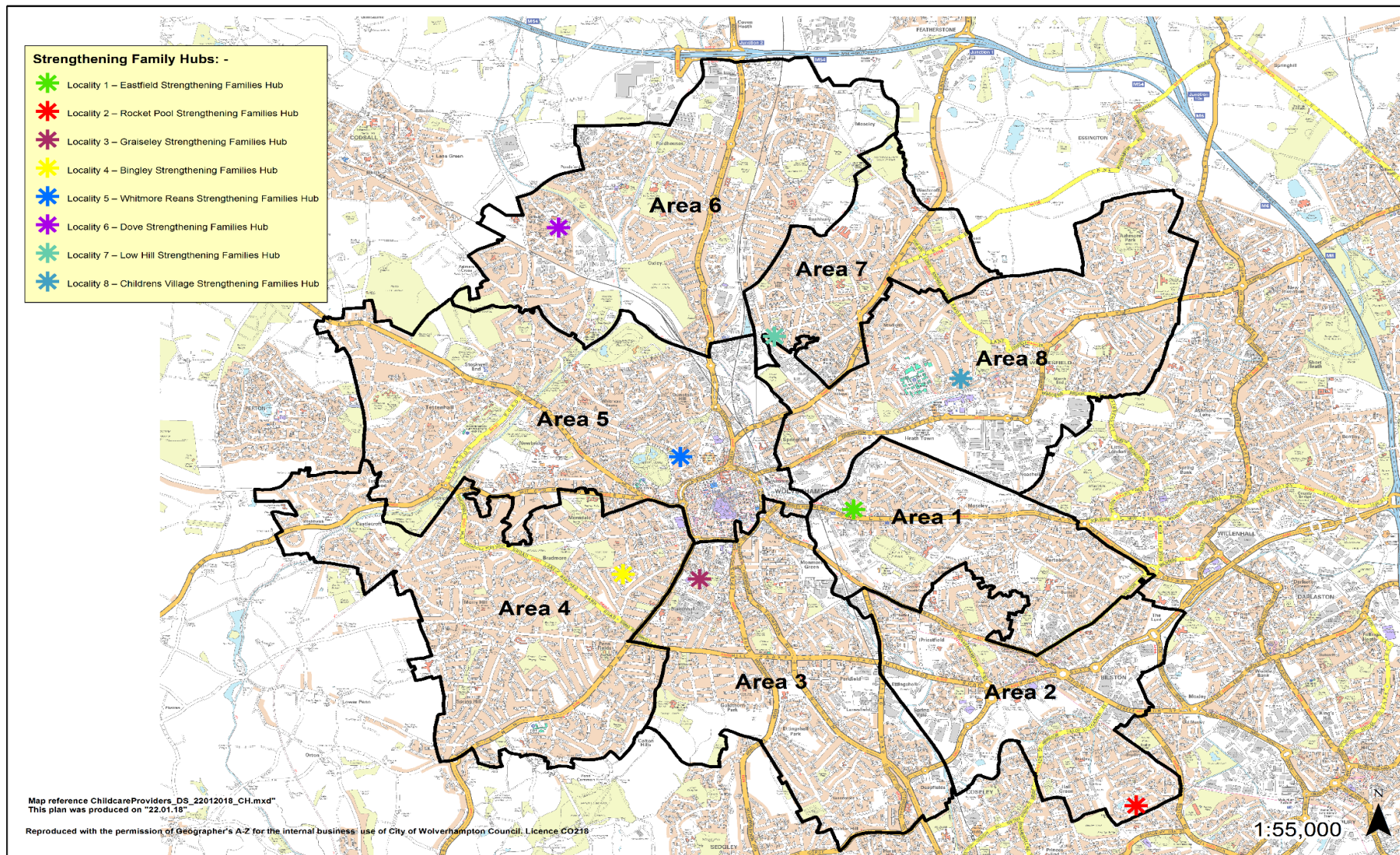
Source: LA data Ofsted date early years

Providers with met/not met judgement

When providers do not have any children on site at the time of their first inspection, they are given an Ofsted grade of 'met' or 'not met'. This shows whether they are meeting the requirements for Ofsted registration, and usually happens when new providers are being set up. At present, we have **9** providers with a 'met' grade and **2** providers with a 'not met' grade.

Breakdown of sufficiency by locality

		Number of EY childcare providers				Number of EY childcare places				Number of providers offering			Numbers of places being used		
Locality	0-4 population	Childminders	Nursery classes	Maintained nursery schools	PVIs	Childminders	Nursery classes	Maintained nursery schools	PVIs	2 year olds	Universal 15 hour 3-4	Extended 30 hour 3-4	2 year olds	Universal 15 hour 3-4	Extended 30 hour 3-4
1 Eastfield	1430	5	4	1	5	30	217	156	268	7	9	8	126	310	113
2 Rocket Pool	1824	7	5	1	2	42	286	156	70	9	15	10	104	174	46
3 Graiseley	2739	9	8	2	5	54	408	182	271	11	20	15	74	353	31
4 Bingley	2697	23	10	0	9	138	482	0	583	29	38	34	159	570	167
5 Whitmore Reans	2625	2	7	0	12	12	402	0	643	13	23	17	151	488	95
6 Dove	2113	19	7	0	6	114	368	0	428	20	27	24	125	436	177
7 Low Hill	1625	6	7	2	3	36	302	211	147	10	14	10	126	306	31
8 Children's Village	2973	20	10	1	5	120	538	100	302	6	30	11	83	531	137
Total	18026	91	58	7	47	546	3003	805	2712	105	176	129	948	3168	797



8 Methodology

- Number of children: based on GLA population projections from WV Insight and the annual population survey
- Children with EHC plans: Insight and performance team, one system October 2019
- Supply of childcare: LA data/Early years
- Vacancy rates: LA data/Early years
- Childcare for parents working atypical hours: LA data/Early years
- Funded early education: LA data/Early years, DWP, LAIT 2019
- Price of childcare: LA data/Early years
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- Breakdown of sufficiency by locality: LA data/Early years and WV insight