

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Spring 2023



Annual assessment identifying the quality of early years provision, the take-up of early years entitlements and the supply and demand for childcare provision across the city.

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1) Wolverhampton's Early Years Team

The Early Years' team is a service within Education Excellence part of the Families directorate. The team is managed by the Senior Advisor for Early Years, who is supported by an Early Years and Childcare Development Officer, and Early Years Advisory Teacher and the equivalent of 3 full time Quality and Access Officers.

The Early Years' team have responsibility:

1. To continue to promote the take up of 2, 3 and 4 year old funding, including 30 hours, EYPP and Tax Free Childcare
2. To ensure there are sufficient childcare places by working closely with childcare providers, giving them support to remain viable, sustainable and sufficient.
3. To improve the quality of the providers which are judged by Ofsted as requires improvement or inadequate by working intensively with them and those that deliver early education funded places
4. To offer childcare advice to families through Information for Families service and continue to promote the Local Offer
5. To continue to support all childcare providers to deliver high quality education and childcare.

The Early Years' Team provides:

- Core support visits to childcare settings according to their categorisation. Categorisation for childcare settings follow a similar methodology to schools to enable greater parity and equality across all education settings (please see Wolverhampton Education Excellence Strategy [Education Strategy 2021](#) for further information)
- Annual conversations with individual settings provide the opportunity to reflect on practice, identify areas of development through providing professional challenge and support.
- Advice and information under the Duties identified in the Childcare Act 2006
- Pre-Ofsted registration, and Ofsted feedback visits
- Provider Briefing Sessions
- Early Years Network Meetings
- Training across a wide range of topics as well as bespoke training to settings where necessary
- Access to latest research and implementation of research.

Over the past twelve months settings have had the opportunity to participate in:

- Early Years Professional Development Programme
- WellComm – (speech and language screening tool) – Early Years' have purchased enough WellComm toolkits for each day care setting, and the work closely with the Speech and Language team to train practitioner on its use. This tool is used to assess and monitor children's speech and language development, and identifies the appropriate interventions needed to support further development.
- Age specific network training sessions on how to develop the learning environment and practice to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Statutory Welfare Requirements
- Half termly update sessions
- The Early Years Service have delivered the following EY practitioner training over the past twelve months:
 - Quality Observations
 - How do I play
 - Creating an Enabling Environment through Continuous Provision
 - Moving Learning on through the Framework
 - Self-Regulation and Executive Functions
 - Mathematics
 - EAL
 - Rhythm, rhyme and stories
 - Co-Play training (Part 1 – The role of the Adult / Part 2 – The Playful Adult)
 - Early Reading
 - Developing a Language Rich Environment
 - Love of Reading
 - The Great Outdoors
 - The Role of the Adult
 - Developing your Curriculum and Pedagogy
 - Curriculum and Practice
 - Pre-Phonic Skills
 - Why anti racist practice is important in the EY
 - Benefits of playdough
 - Loose parts
 - High Quality Interactions
 - ECT Sessions
 - Bespoke inhouse training for individual settings
- An online training module has been developed for all local authority staff working and supporting families to understand the range of funding entitlements.
- Mandatory Safeguarding child protection courses.

2) Statutory Duty

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

3) Types of Childcare

- **Full day care** – Full day care settings care for and support children's learning in line with the ages and stages of development of children from 3 months to 5 years and are predominately open from 8.00am to 6.00pm, some are open even longer hours. Most are open from Monday to Friday, but a few may open at weekends to help support parents' different working patterns. Day nurseries operate all year round usually, except for bank holidays. Some nurseries close between Christmas and New Year, while others remain open. Most offer the free early education places that are available to 2, 3 and 4-year olds.
- **Childminders** – Registered childminders are self-employed childcare professionals who work in their own homes. They care and support each child's learning in line with their age and stage of development. They are registered for small numbers of children and will often care for a range of ages. Childminders may also offer flexibility to accommodate parents working patterns e.g. evening and weekends.
- **Home carers** – Home carers are usually nannies who care for children of any age up to their 18th birthday wholly or mainly in the child's own home, and care for children from no more than two families. They are not required to register with Ofsted but may choose to do so, on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.
- **Pre-school playgroups** – Pre-schools provide care and support children's learning in line with ages and stages of development for children between 2 and 5 years. Most pre-schools will be open five mornings a week, with the majority providing afternoon sessions as well. Pre-schools and playgroups tend to run term time only, from around 9am to lunchtime or from lunchtime to around 3 or 4pm.

- **Out of school provision** – These are often referred to as Breakfast or After School Clubs. They provide play opportunities for school age children at times when schools are not open. They can operate before school in the mornings, from the end of the school day and at the end of the working day. It is important to note that many of the out of school provisions respond to fluctuating community need and the majority are run by schools themselves.
- **Holiday play schemes** – Holiday play schemes, take place during school holiday periods and may be run by a school, private or voluntary organisations.
- **Nursery schools** – This type of provision is based within schools maintained by the local authority and accept children from 2/3 years to compulsory school age. Sessions operate during school hours, term time only, generally with one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- **Nursery Classes**- This type of provision is based with in primary schools that have a specific nursery class. They are found in both LA maintained schools and academies. Sessions operate during school hours, term time only, generally with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Accepting children from 3 years to compulsory school age. Some schools do have separate provision for 2 year olds.

4) Ofsted

Ofsted regulates childcare under the Early Years Register which allows flexibility in numbers of children accessing the provision. This means that childcare providers can adjust the number of places they make available for babies, 2, 3 and 4-year olds based upon staffing levels, space and the demands of their local communities.

This report shows the range of childcare by provider type, available to families across the city. Profiles for each locality will show the make-up of the population and take up of Early Education Funding.

Registration of Childcare provision

The Childcare Act 2006 gives Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMIC) responsibility for regulating registered childcare providers.

Childcare Register – The Childcare Register is for providers who care for children from birth to 18 years. It has two parts:

- A Compulsory part, for providers who care for children aged from the end of the Foundation Stage up to seven years.
- A Voluntary part, for providers who care for children aged eight and over and those providing care for children at any age for whom registration is not compulsory, e.g. nannies.

Early Years Register – Registration on the Early Years Register is compulsory for providers who care for children in the early years' age group; from birth to compulsory school age.

Ofsted Inspections and Judgements

Ofsted will inspect all providers who are on the Early Years Register. New providers who have registered will normally receive their first quality inspected within 30 months of registration.

Ofsted evaluates the overall quality and standards of the early years' provision in line with the principles and requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Inspectors judge the overall effectiveness of the early years' provision, considering three key judgements:

- How well the early years' provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it is provided
- The contribution of the early years' provision to the well-being of children
- The effectiveness of the leadership and management

Outstanding	The setting consistently achieves very high standards across all aspects of its work with exceptional educational programmes for children. The setting has very high expectations and a clear understanding of how children learn. Rich varied, and imaginative experiences are provided for the children. Assessment and planning are precise and sharply focused on a comprehensive knowledge of each child.
Good	There is depth and breadth across the seven areas of learning with experiences which are interesting and challenging and meet the needs of all children. There is secure knowledge and understanding of how to promote the learning and development of young children and what they can achieve. Regular and precise assessments of children are made and used to plan suitably challenging activities, so that children of all ages and abilities make good progress in their learning.
Requires Improvement	The provision is not yet demonstrating the characteristics of a good judgement. However, any breaches of the statutory requirements for learning and development do not have significant impact on children's learning and development.
Inadequate	If there are breaches of the statutory requirements for learning and development which have a significant impact on children's learning and development e.g. the seven areas of learning are inadequately provided and/or do not provide interesting activities in enough depth or breadth; some practitioners have a poor understanding of the areas of learning and/or knowledge of how to promote children's learning and development; planning is not effective in matching activities to children's needs; observations and assessments are not consistent in quality.

Where there are no children on roll, the inspector must make it clear at the start of the inspection (or during the initial telephone call) that the inspection will not be a full inspection but a check that the provider continues to be suitable to remain registered. As a result, no grades will be given, the inspector will make a judgement only on the 'overall quality and standards of the early years provision' with one of the three possible outcomes:

- **Met** (where a judgement is 'met', the inspector will not make recommendations)
- **Not met with actions**
- **Not met with enforcements**

For provider registered on the Childcare Register the Ofsted Inspector will make a judgement of two possible outcomes:

- **Compliant** (meeting all the requirements for registration on the Childcare Register)
- **Non-compliant** (not meeting all the requirements for registration on the Childcare Register)

5) Early Education Funding – Entitlements

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. Each of the following funding streams give up to 570 hours per year and can be accessed the term after their second/third birthday, or for the Extended Entitlement, the term after applying.

- Terrific for Twos - 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.
- Universal - All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to up to 15 hours per week until compulsory school age or when they start reception class.
- Extended Entitlement - Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to an additional 15 hours per week until compulsory school age or they start reception class.
- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) - Offers providers a top up to the hourly funding rate for eligible 3 and 4 year olds

Parents may wish to access the early education on a term time basis, this offers up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks a year. Or, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year. Parents do not have to use all the hours and they may choose to split them between providers. Parents are advised to discuss how they can access a funded place with their chosen childcare provider and any additional fees before confirming their child's place.

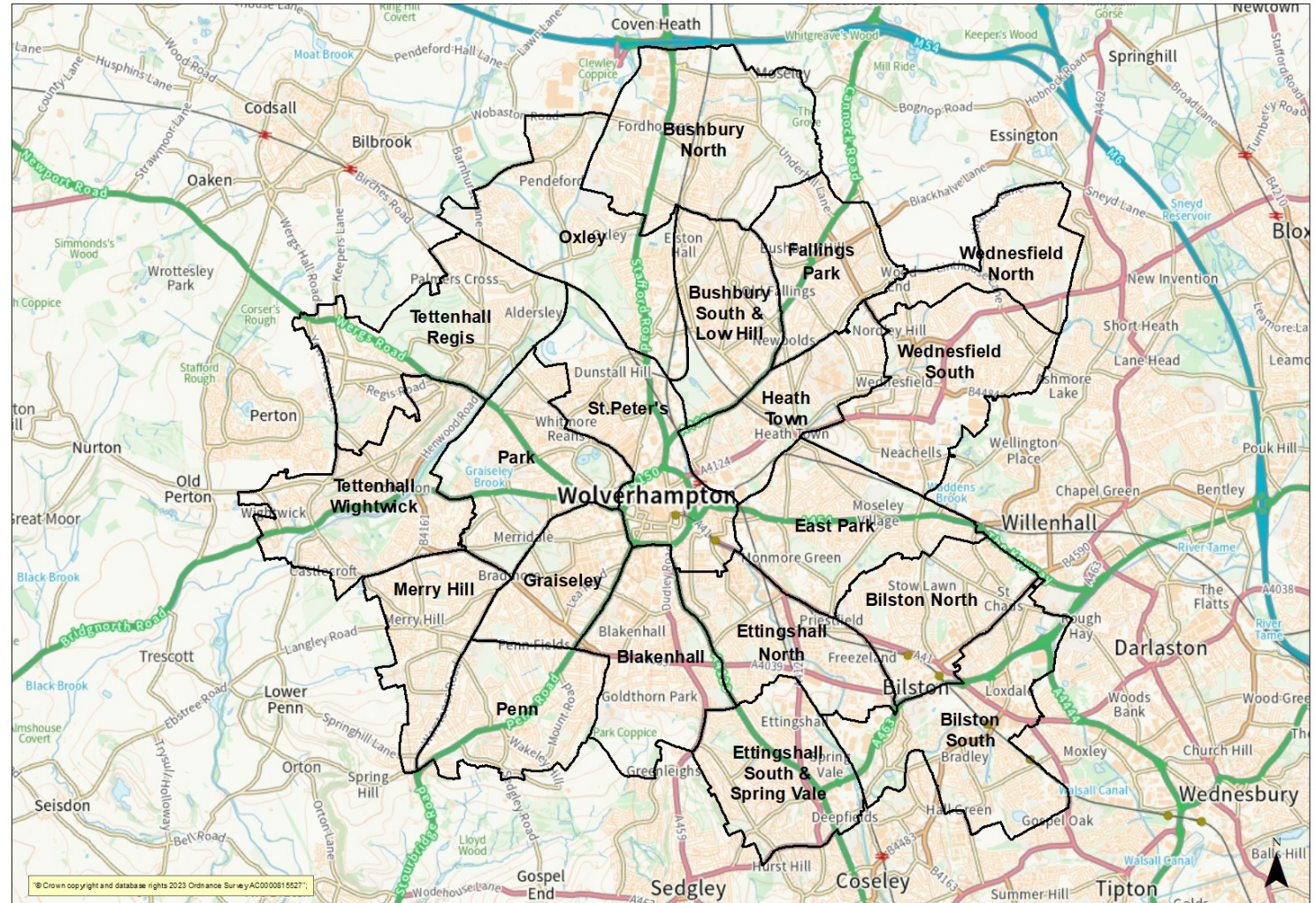
The following table shows the number of children accessing the early years entitlements for the Spring 2023 term

Terrific for Twos	Universal	Extended	EYPP
984	4,225	1,053	1023

6) Overall Assessment

Wolverhampton is split into twenty ward areas

Bilston North
 Bilston South
 Blakenhall
 Bushbury North
 Bushbury South and Low Hill
 East Park
 Ettingshall North
 Ettingshall South and Spring Vale
 Fallings Park
 Graiseley
 Heath Town
 Merry Hill
 Oxley
 Park
 Penn
 St Peter's
 Tettenhall Regis
 Tettenhall Wightwick
 Wednesfield North
 Wednesfield South



Demand for Childcare

There are approximately 19,847 children aged under 5 years, with a further 25,084 children aged between 6-11 and a furthermore 17,223 12-16 year olds living in Wolverhampton.

Source: WV Insight, Census 2021

Childcare needs will vary depending on family circumstances and work commitments.

Characteristics of Families Living in Wolverhampton

Population – The 2021 Census identified a 6.2% population increase in the West Midlands. In Wolverhampton population size increased by 5.7%, from around 249,500 in the 2011 census to 263,700 in 2021. Making Wolverhampton the third most densely populated of the West Midland's 30 local councils.

In Wolverhampton, there has been an increase of 6.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 3.7% in people aged 15 to 65 years and a 3.5% increase in children aged under 15.

Employment – 66% of the working age population in Wolverhampton are in employment. This is below the estimated UK employment rate of 75.9%

Source: WV Insight, Census 2021 and ONS May 2023

Ethnicity – The following table shows the current breakdown of ethnicity of Wolverhampton residents, identified in the 2021 Census.

Ethnic group	Percentage of population	National Percentage
White (all groups)	61	81
Asian	21	10
Black (all groups)	9	4
Mixed	5	3
Other	4	2

English as main language – 85% of the population have English as their main language

Deprivation – Wolverhampton has seen increasing levels of deprivation in recent years; key components of deprivation are income, employment, health, education, crime, the living environment and barriers to housing. In Wolverhampton 24% of families have limited resources and budget to make ends meet (MOSAIC 2022).

Nearly one third of children in Wolverhampton live in poverty. Wolverhampton continues to have higher levels of child poverty than our Black Country neighbours and nationally. Wolverhampton is the 20th most deprived local authority (out of 152 authorities nationally). Over 82% of Wolverhampton children in poverty live in households where no one is working. 59% of all 0-19 year olds living in Wolverhampton live in a deprived area.

Population, Employment, Ethnicity and deprivation source – WV Insight, Office of National Statistics

Good Level of Development – 61.9% of children achieved a GLD at the end of their reception year (2022), with the national average being 65.2%

In September 2021 the *Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage: Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five* changed significantly along with the expectations regarding the assessment of how a child achieves a good level of development.

The level of development children should be expected to have attained by the end of the EYFS is defined by the early learning goals (ELGs) as set out in [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). The ELGs should support teachers to make a holistic, best-fit judgement about a child's development, and their readiness for year 1. When forming a judgement about whether an individual child is at the expected level of development, teachers should draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement.

Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests, and development of each child in their care, and must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all areas of learning and development. Practitioners working with the youngest children are expected to ensure a strong foundation for children's development in the three prime areas. The specific areas of learning provide children with a broad curriculum and with opportunities to strengthen and apply the prime areas of learning. This is particularly important in developing language and extending vocabulary.

In the final term of the year in which the child reaches age five, the EYFS Profile must be completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels, and their readiness for year 1. The Profile must reflect practitioners' own knowledge and professional judgement of a child to inform discussions with parents and carers, and any other adults whom the teacher, parent or carer judges can offer a useful contribution. Each child's level of development must be assessed against the early learning goals. Practitioners must indicate whether children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). These should help inform a dialogue between reception and year 1 teachers about each child's stage of development and learning needs and assist with the planning of activities in year 1.

7) Sufficiency at Ward Level

The following table shows the number of childcare providers in each ward area, with the number of places and the early education funding entitlements they offer. Maps can be found in the appendix.

Locality	Number of EY providers				Number of EY places provided				Number of settings that offer EEF** entitlements		
	Childminders	PVI *	Nursery Schools	Nursery Classes within schools	Childminders	PVI*	Nursery Schools	Nursery Classes within schools	2 year old Entitlement (TFT)	Universal (3 & 4 year olds)	Extended Entitlement (30 hours)
Bilston North	1	4	0	2	6	181	0	99	4	6	4
Bilston South	3	0	0	5	18	0	0	332	1	8	2
Blakenhall	1	2	1	3	6	90	52	138	2	7	4
Bushbury North	4	3	1	2	24	212	104	140	5	10	8
Bushbury South & Low Hill	2	2	1	1	12	122	120	60	4	6	2
East Park	4	2	1	2	24	145	120	146	4	9	4
Ettingshall North	1	0	2	2	6	0	263	72	2	5	2
Ettingshall South & Spring Vale	5	2	0	4	30	131	0	212	3	11	9
Fallings Park	5	1	0	5	30	24	0	276	3	11	3
Graiseley	3	5	0	2	18	272	0	92	7	10	6
Heath Town	5	1	0	5	30	56	0	334	5	11	5
Merry Hill	6	1	0	2	36	65	0	112	2	9	6
Oxley	7	2	0	4	42	255	0	204	3	13	7
Park	2	***8	0	4	12	444	0	264	8	14	9
Penn	9	2	0	3	54	134	0	214	8	14	10
St Peter's	4	2	0	1	24	277	0	40	4	7	4
Tettenhall Regis	0	1	0	3	0	24	0	116	1	4	4
Tettenhall Wightwick	3	***3	0	3	18	13	0	184	3	9	8
Wednesfield North	6	2	1	3	36	139	100	128	4	12	8
Wednesfield South	2	2	0	2	12	94	0	124	4	6	3

Source: Ofsted and LA data from Spring 2023 Headcount

*Including day nurseries and pre-school/playgroups. Registered numbers for pre-school/playgroup provision have been doubled to allow for sessional hours.

**EEF – Early Education Funding, see section 4. These numbers may vary according to occupancy within individual settings.

*** Includes Independent Schools

Future Provision

From April 2023 an additional 52 places became available in the Bilston North ward.

Plans are in place for a day nursery provision to open by Autumn 2023 in the Ettingshall South and Spring Vale ward.

Planning application have also been approved for a day nursery within the Heath Town ward, number of places are yet to be confirmed.

8) Affordability and Childcare Reforms 2023

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices, reported to us by settings are given below. 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 (average 10%). Some settings also offer a small discount for blue card holders (emergency services) and NHS staff.

The following fees, show the average cost of childcare across the city. This information has been compiled from a provider survey carried out in May 2023.

Type	Hourly rate	Session/ half day rate	Day rate	Weekly rate
Childminder	£5.00	NA	£45.00	£225.00
Day Care	£6.81	£27.65	£50.00	£250.00

There may be additional payments for services, e.g. deposits, meals and extra curriculum activities. Further fees would be added if additional hours were needed after funded hours had been accessed. The average costs of these are:

Deposits	Meals	Additional hours purchased	
		10 hours	20 hours
£62.00 Or a proportion of the first month's fees	£2.95	£70.00 Average hourly rate for additional hours £7.00	£140.00

Please note: Deposits should be refunded within a reasonable timescale.

Support with Childcare Costs

The Government's Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) scheme offers up to £2,000 a year per child towards childcare costs, including nursery, childminder and even some holiday playschemes. Tax-Free Childcare is designed so that for every 80p parent put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the state will add 20p. It

essentially gives parents basic-rate tax back on your bill. The scheme's available to working parents of children from birth until the September after their children turn 11 (or until they turn 16 if your child is disabled).

The past twelve months has shown a 30.9% increase in the number of children accessing TFC. This is above national increase of 28.5%.

For further information, visit [Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

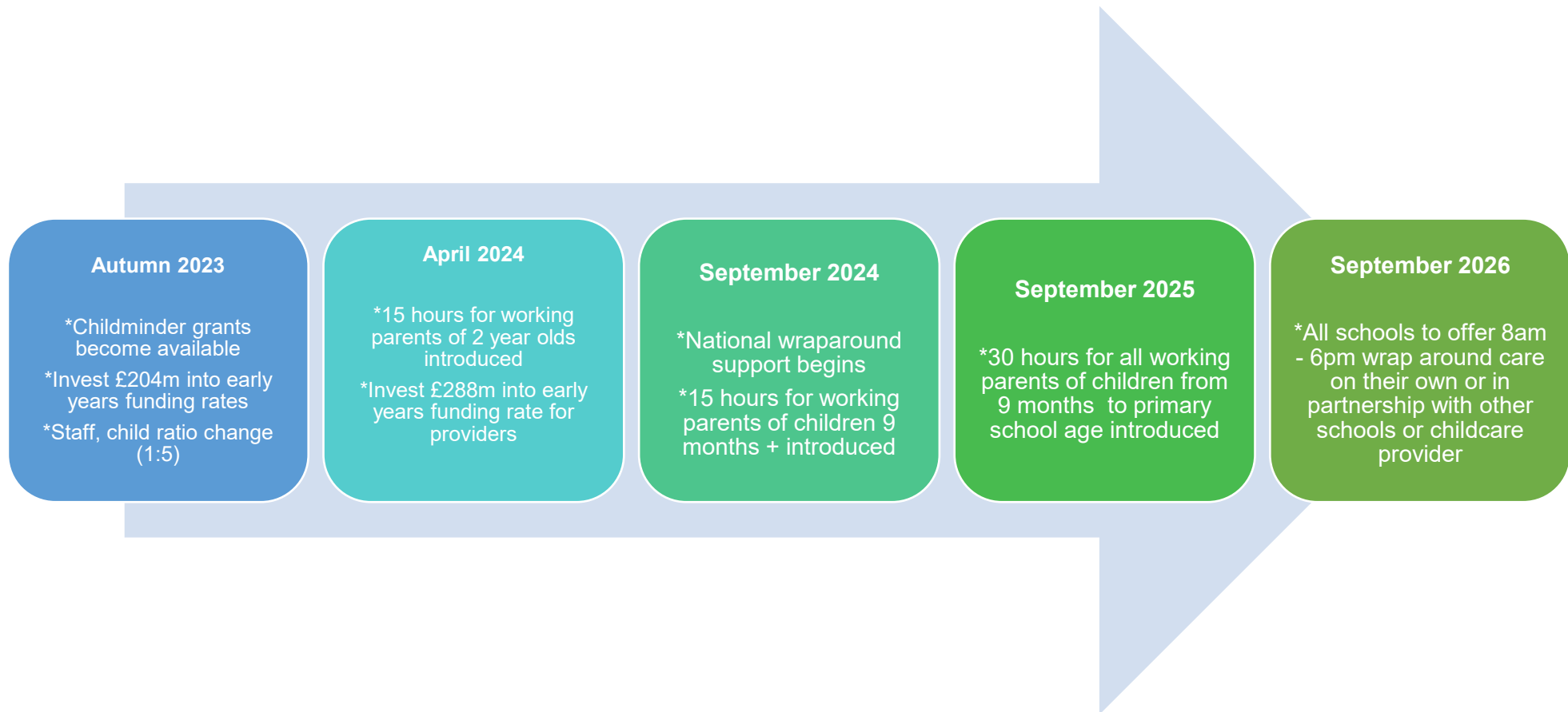
Future Support – Spring Budget 2023

In the Government's Spring Budget 2023, the Chancellor announced transformation reforms to increase availability, reduce costs and increase the number of parents using it. By 2027-28, this government expect to spend in excess of £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with childcare costs. This will include £4.1bn to funded extended free hours for children over the age of 9 months, a funding rate increase for childcare providers, increasing the supply of wraparound care, and wider market reforms.

Summary of Reforms:

- Changes to staff to child ratios for 2 year olds, from 1:4 to 1:5
- Increase to the hour funding rate for providers
- 15 hours for working parents of 2 year olds, extending to 15 hours for working parents of children 9 months +
- Extending the 15 hours to 30 hours for working parents of children 9 months to school age
- Grants available to those wanting to register with Ofsted or with a Childminder Agency as a Childminder
- Ensuring that all schools offer 8am-6pm wraparound care

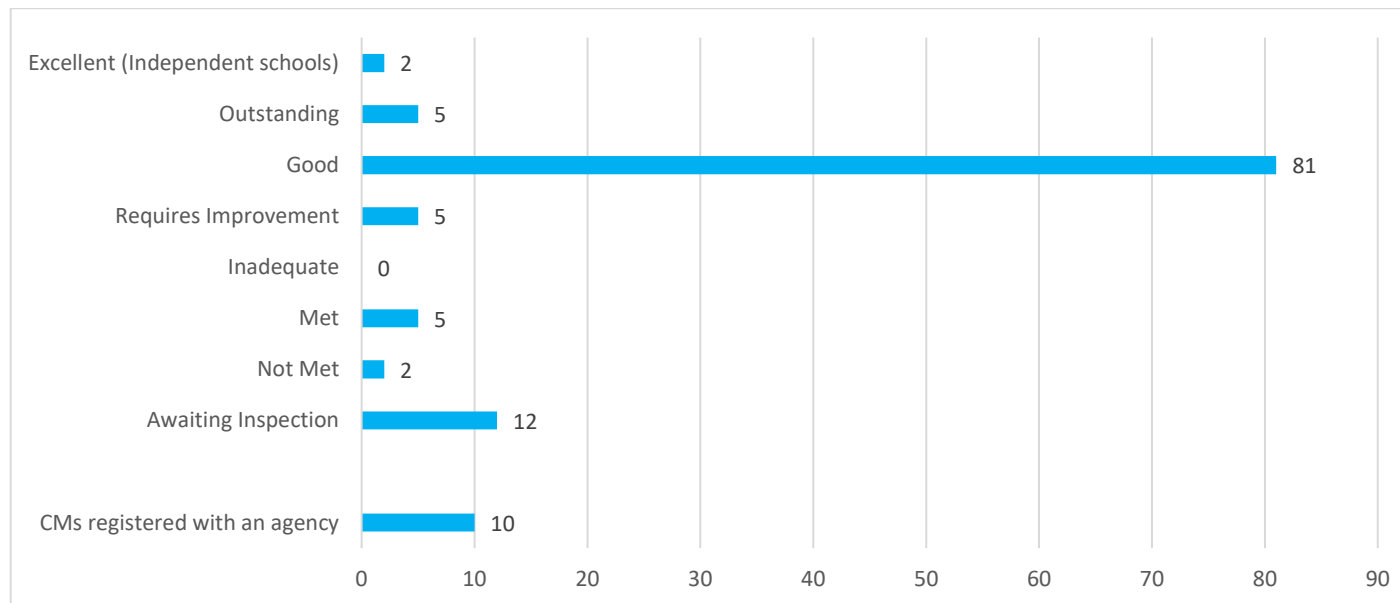
These reforms will be rolled out in stages, to ensure there is enough supply for the demand. The following chart shows the expected phased roll out



9) Quality of Day Care Provision

The Early Years' Team provides training, advice, support and challenge to all Ofsted registered provision. This promotes all young children to receive high quality early education and care in language-rich, stimulating and nurturing environments.

At the end of the Spring 2023 term, the Ofsted judgements given to the 122, day care providers (Childminders, Pre-school, Day Nurseries and Independent schools) were as in the table below. This information includes ten childminders who are registered with a Childminding Agency, and therefore, do not receive an individual Ofsted judgement.

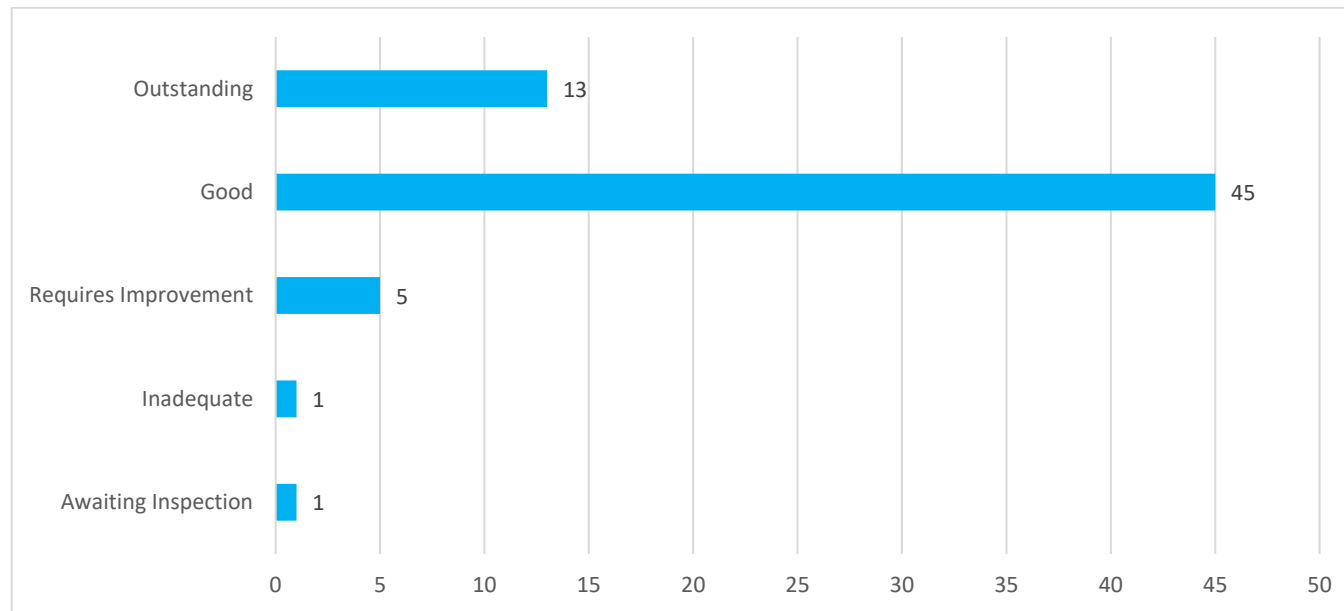


This equates to 78.5% of Ofsted registered day care provision being Good or Better.

Taking out those not inspected 93% of settings are graded as Good or Better.

10) Quality of School Provision

The following chart shows the Ofsted judgements of schools providing early years education (maintained nursery schools, independent schools, maintained nursery classes and academy nursery classes).



This equates to 89% of schools with a nursery provision being judged as Good or above.

11) Out of School Provision

The majority of year round day care provision and Childminders offer out of school provision, either before and after school provision.

In addition, 64 schools across the city offer before and after school provision. These are either run directly through the school or a private provision has been contracted to offer this childcare for the families attending the school. From the private provision offering just out of school care, 64% either Met Ofsted's regulations or were judged to be Good or above.

Some day nurseries are available to offer holiday provision for up to 8-year-olds, when demand requires. The majority of year round provision will offer holiday care to current parents attending and if places allow, additional families seeking holiday care. There are four further private holiday care providers across the city, with several more unregistered (less than 2 hours per day) being available to families. Further information on out of school provision is available from Information for Families tel. 01902 554242 or visit Wolverhampton Information Network [WIN](#).

12) Summary

Although there has been movement within the childcare sector across the city, numbers have been consistent. There has been a slight increase in the numbers of Childminders registering with a Childminder Agency instead of directly with Ofsted. However, all registered Childminders receive support, advice and guidance from the Early Years Team and are invited to forums and any appropriate training.

With the current cost of living crises, settings have needed to plan or in some cases, already increased fees. With the intention to review these again in time The average day rate for a Childminder has increased by 5%, from £42.75 to £45.00 per day

- The average day rate for a day care setting has increased by 13.2%, from £43.41 to £50.00 per day
- Meals have increased by 20%, the average meal now costing £2.95

2 year old provision (Terrific for Twos) is available across the city, with 71% of maintained nursery schools and 12% schools with nursery provision offering the entitlement. All day care settings offer and 22% of childminders were offering Terrific for Twos places during the Spring 2023 term.

Uptake and availability of the Extended Entitlement (30 hours) has continued to grow over the last year, with 36% of childminders offering places, all maintained nursery schools and 46.5% of schools with nursery provision offering the additional hours. All day care settings can offer either the full 30 hours or work in partnership with another setting to ensure families can access their full entitlement.

Ward Level Data

The ward with the lowest availability of childcare for our youngest children is Tettenhall Regis; with no childminders and one day care setting. However, all primary schools in this ward offer out of school provision for school aged children. Other wards with limited provision include Ettingshall North; one childminder, no day care settings but 2 year old provision is available at the two maintained nursery schools within the ward. Bilston South also has no day care settings, three childminders in the area can cater for approximately eighteen children. Out of school provision is also limited in this ward.

The ward with the most childcare availability is Penn; with nine childminders offering approximately 54 places and two, day care settings offering 134 places. All primary schools in Penn offer out of school provision for school aged children. The eight, day care providers in the Park ward offer 420 places, additional 2 year places can be found at one schools and 90% of the primary schools in Park offer out of school provision. Bilston South, Fallings Park and Heath Town have the highest number of schools with nursery provision, with each ward having five schools and offering approximately 300 places.

Holiday provision for children aged 5 – 8 years is limited, with some early years settings offering provision for under 8s and Wolverhampton's Yo! [Home | Wolverhampton Young Opportunities \(yowolves.co.uk\)](http://www.yowolves.co.uk) offering opportunities for over 8s. However, no formal complaints have been raised regarding this type of provision.

13) Recommendations

To ensure the Local Authority meets the Statutory Duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, the following five areas have been identified.

Supply and demand of childcare - Demand for childcare is dynamic and fluid. Many factors will continue to influence what kind of childcare families want to use. Wolverhampton Early Years Team will continue to monitor the take-up of childcare and will support childcare providers to maximise their occupancy and remain sustainable. Closer analyse of future demand for childcare in readiness of the new reforms will help us ensure sufficient places for both working families as well as supporting the needs of our disadvantaged families. The Early Years Team will continue to provide advice, guidance, and challenge to ensure all accessing provision experience high quality early education.

Actions:

- *To work closely with settings and operational systems to ensure new childcare reforms are implemented smoothly*
- *To closely monitor the take up of childcare for under two-year-olds*
- *To develop sustainability and sufficiency tool kits to support settings to maximise their occupancy and forward plan*

To ensure that the Early Years Team provides high quality training, access to the latest research, support and challenge to ensure all children receive a high quality of education

Eligibility and entitlements take-up - Parents need to know their entitlements and childcare providers need to be supported to provide places for free entitlement. Wolverhampton Early Years' will provide clear information on all early education funding entitlements through their Early Years website, Wolverhampton Information Network (WIN), informing other professionals working with families and through outreach work. Early Years' will continue to work with providers to maximise their occupancy and individual setting's funded offer, to meet the needs of families.

Actions:

- *All providers have effective tools, skills and information to enable them to promote all funded childcare options (including tax free childcare)*
- *To ensure all information is clear and accessible to parents and professionals working with families*

Information is regularly given to family-facing professionals to help them promote childcare and the importance of early education

Ofsted judgements – Once categorised, settings will receive a differentiated level of challenge and support from the local authority through the Senior Advisor for Early Years, Quality and Access Officers and the Early Years Childcare and Development Officer. The Early Years Team will provide bespoke and differentiated levels of professional challenge to EYFS settings, to evaluate provision, performance, identify priorities for improvement and support the planning for effective change. Specific allocations from Quality and Access Officers and the Early Years Childcare and Development Officer will be determined according to the setting's category ([Education Strategy 2021](#)) and individual setting's circumstances.

Wolverhampton Early Years' will continue to offer intense support settings judged by Ofsted as inadequate and requires improvement. The Early Years Team will offer a wide range of free high-quality training that covers all aspects of the Welfare Requirements and Learning and Development to all early years' settings. Training will be linked to latest research, information from DfE, Ofsted and Local intelligence gained through support visits.

Actions:

- *Those settings at risk of receiving a less than good judgement receive a high level of support and challenge to bring about rapid improvements*
- *Those settings who have unfortunately been judged as less than good receive intense bespoke support from The Early Years Team and wider council teams where necessary.*
- *To ensure that a high quality of early education is available across the City of Wolverhampton*

Capacity - Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a risk to the childcare market both nationally and locally. Ensuring childcare providers continue to meet parents needs must be monitored. Wolverhampton has seen a drop in the number of registered Childminders. Wolverhampton will promote childminding as a business opportunity, and we work in partnership with local colleges and the university to promote careers within the childcare sector. Along with DWP and Wolves at work.

Actions:

- *Ensure local colleges/schools are offering the required level 2 and level 3 qualifications and then explore how these are offered and promoted.*
- *Review the careers advice currently being offered and the work experience opportunities in secondary schools.*
- *A quality early years career progression map, a pathway into early years, ensuring those interesting in early years and currently working in early years understand all the training opportunities and progression available.*
- *Support current practitioners in settings and schools to access the national professional qualification, early years leadership (NPQEYL), Early Years Professional Development Programme (phase3), building a community of good practice.*

Information and brokerage - Parents should have access to information on the availability of childcare across the city, early years funding entitlements (criteria and application process). Some families may need extra support, where gaps in provision prevent them accessing suitable childcare. Therefore, Wolverhampton Early Years Team will continue to offer a brokerage service to support these families to find appropriate childcare. The Early Years Team will ensure families have access to up-to-date online information that will help parents make informed choices. The Wolverhampton will offer telephone support to families through the Information for Families service (01902 554242) and families will be able to contact the Early Years' team through the early.years@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Actions:

- *Information for families is available in a range of formats such as social media, online, written and spoken information.*
- *Information is easily accessible and up to date.*
- *The Early Years Team has an update understanding and knowledge of childcare availability and options to families.*
- *Training or information sessions are offered to family-facing professionals.*

Family Hubs

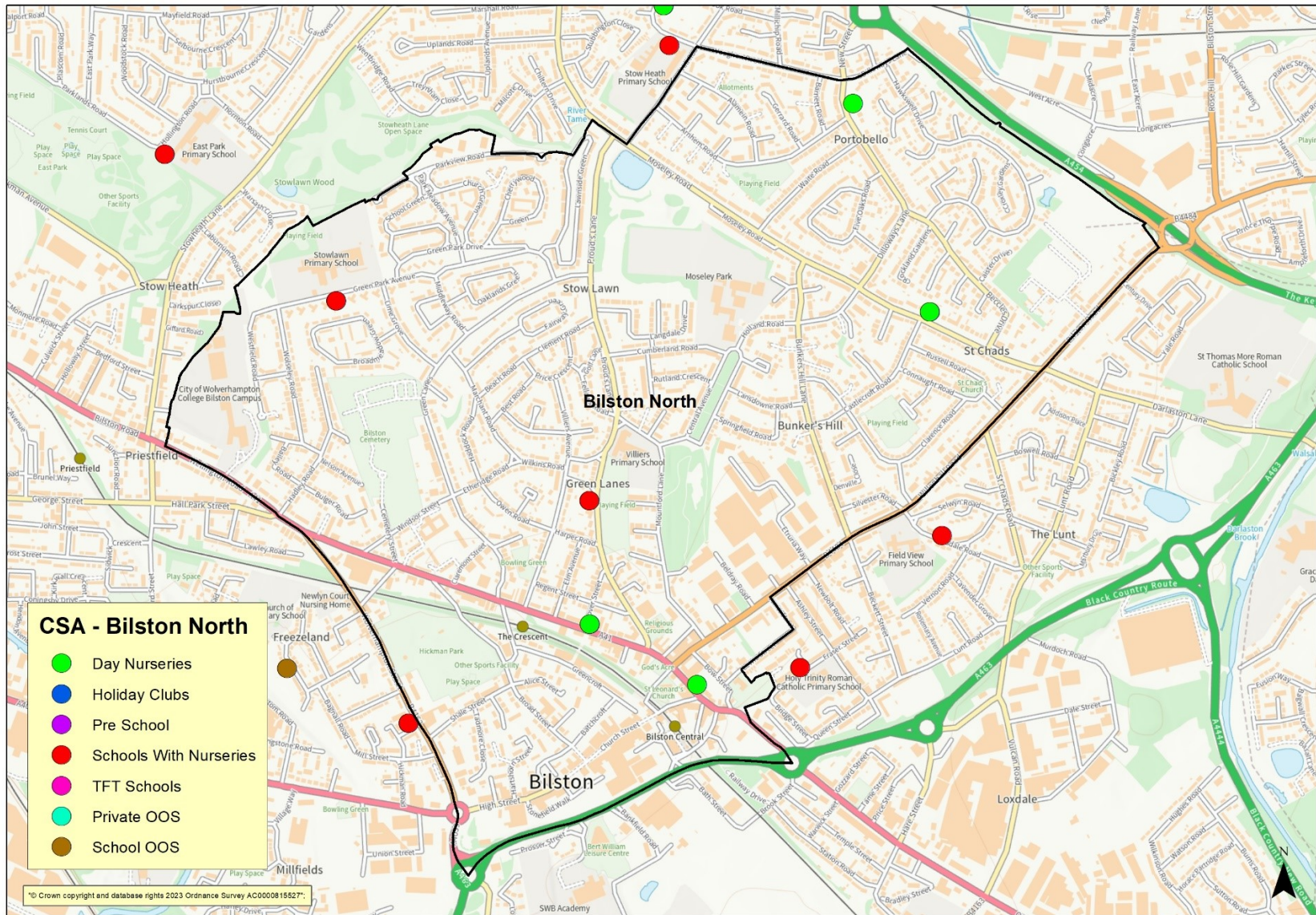
Wolverhampton is one of 75 areas in England to benefit from a share of £300 million from the Government's Family Hub and Start for Life programme. These hubs will act as a 'one stop shop' to support families through pregnancy and all aspects of the parenting journey. Hubs will provide a range of services from birth registration, play and stay session to advice on health and welfare rights. The Early Years Service and Education Excellence will work closely with colleagues in health and social care to ensure our youngest children have the best start in life and build strong foundations for their future, with a strong focus on the home learning environment and developing strong communication and language skills.

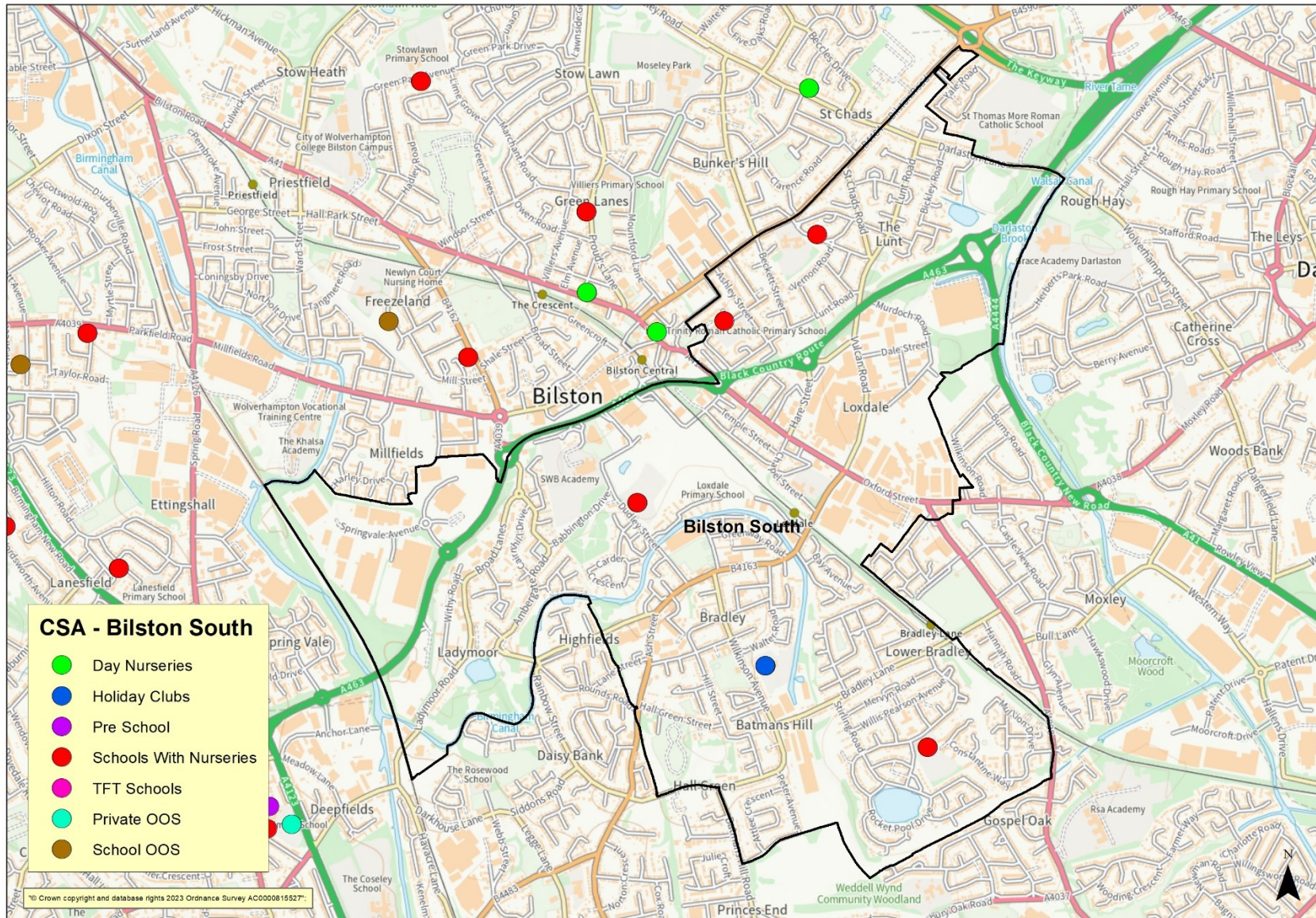
14) Complaints

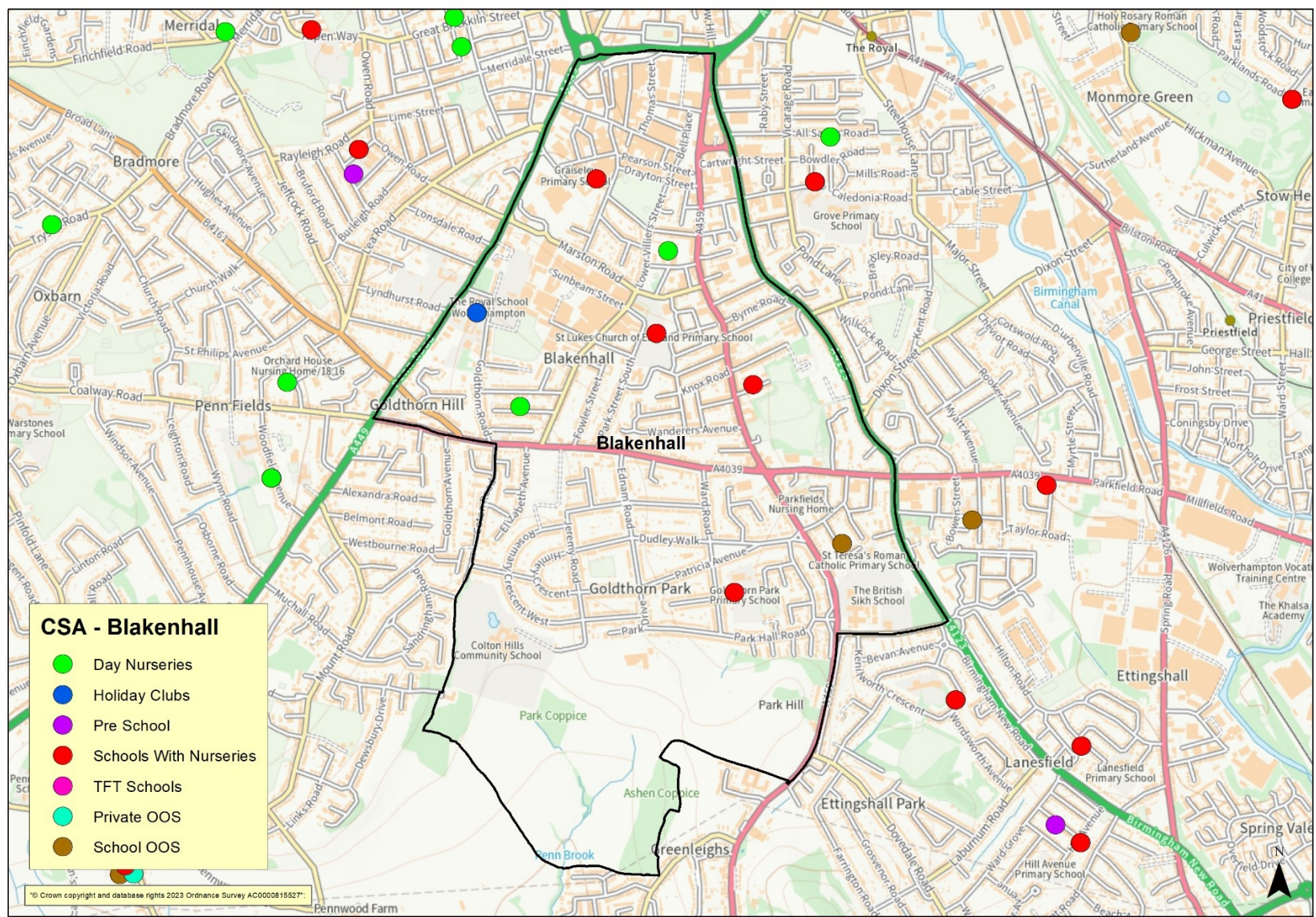
Over the past twelve months, no formal complaints regarding the supply and demand of childcare places.

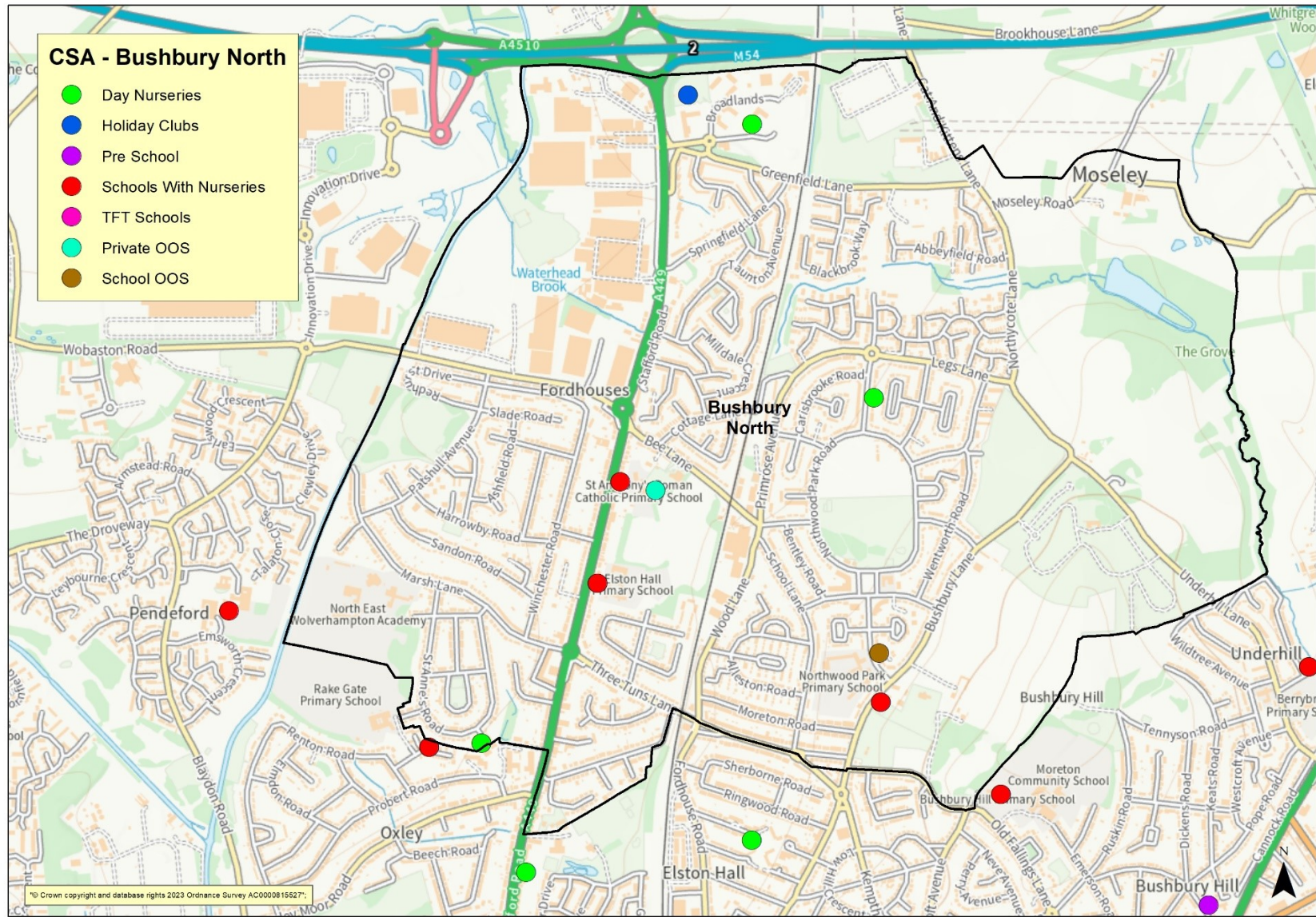
Appendix – Ward Maps

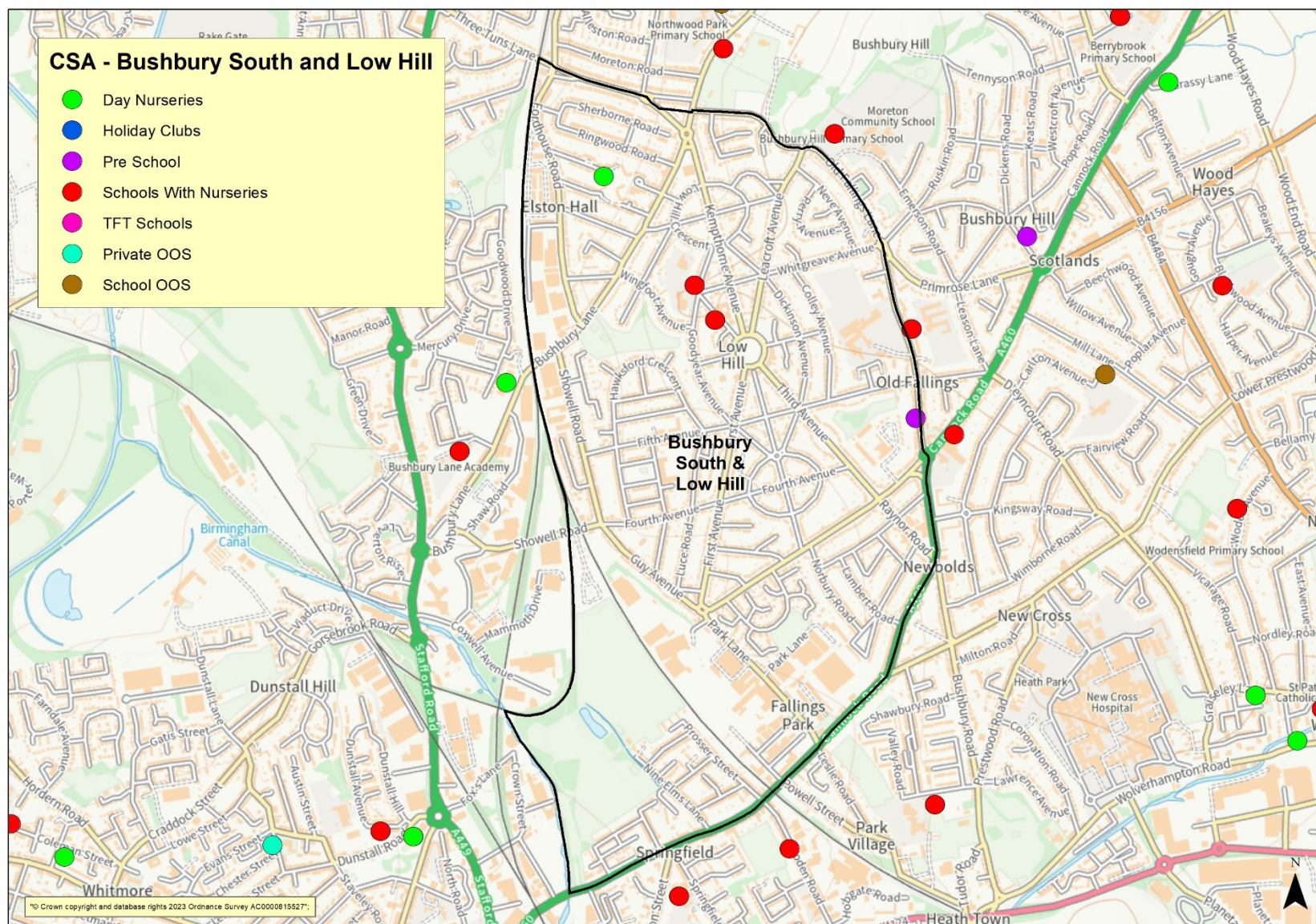
The following maps show the location of Ofsted registered Childcare providers and schools with nursery provision. For further information on the location of Childminders, call Information for Families 01902554242 or visit [Children, Young People and Families | Wolverhampton Information Network](#)

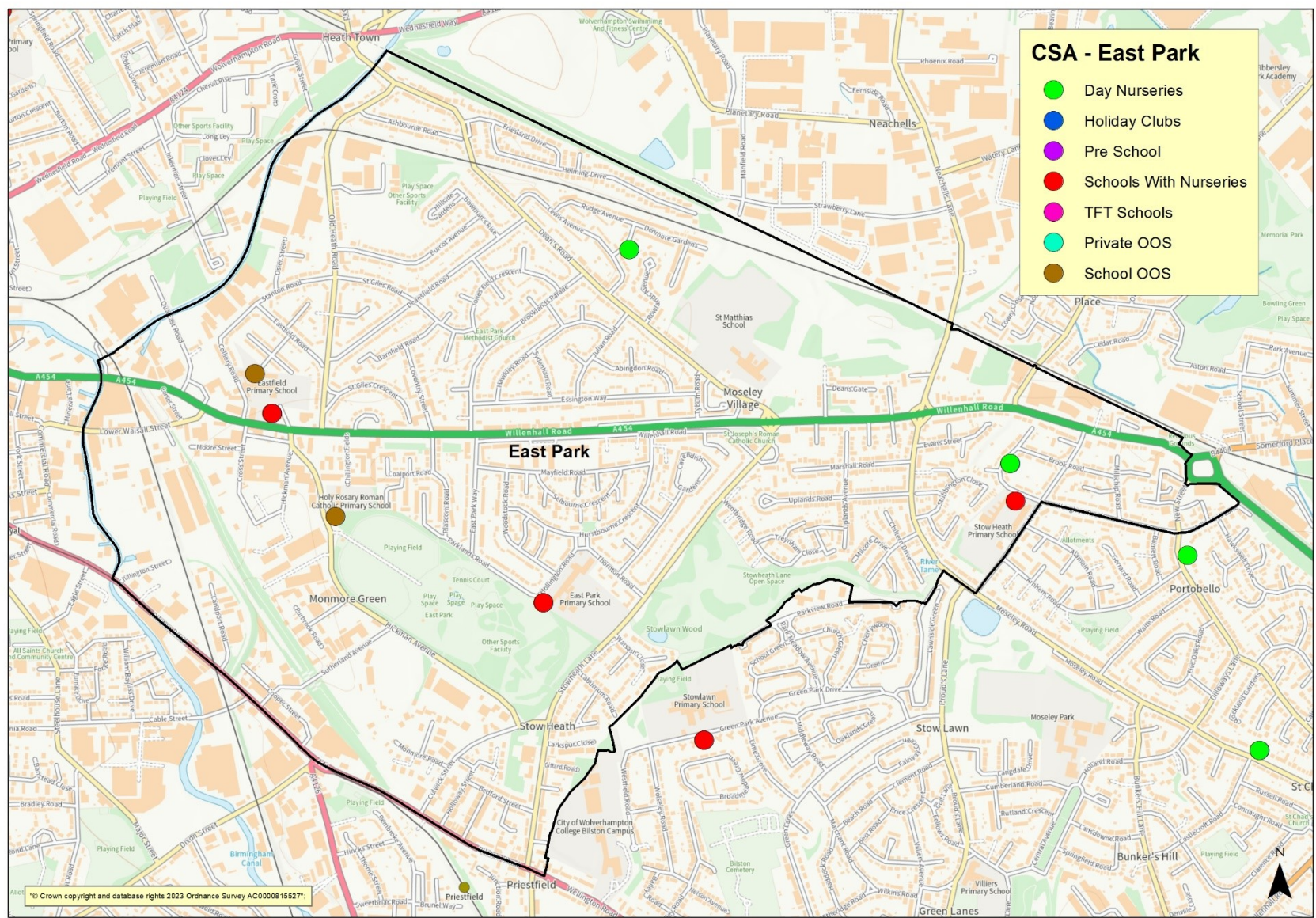


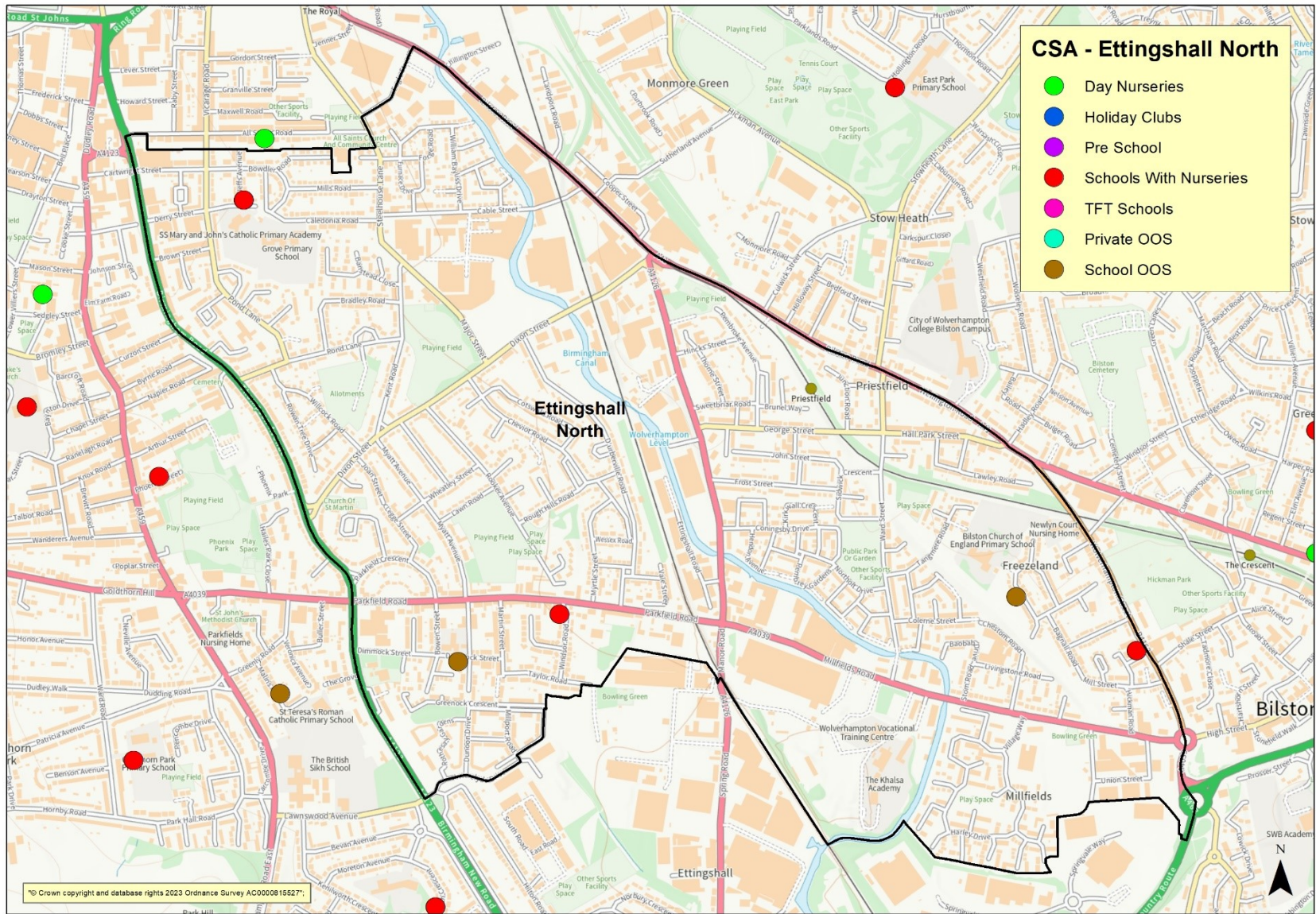


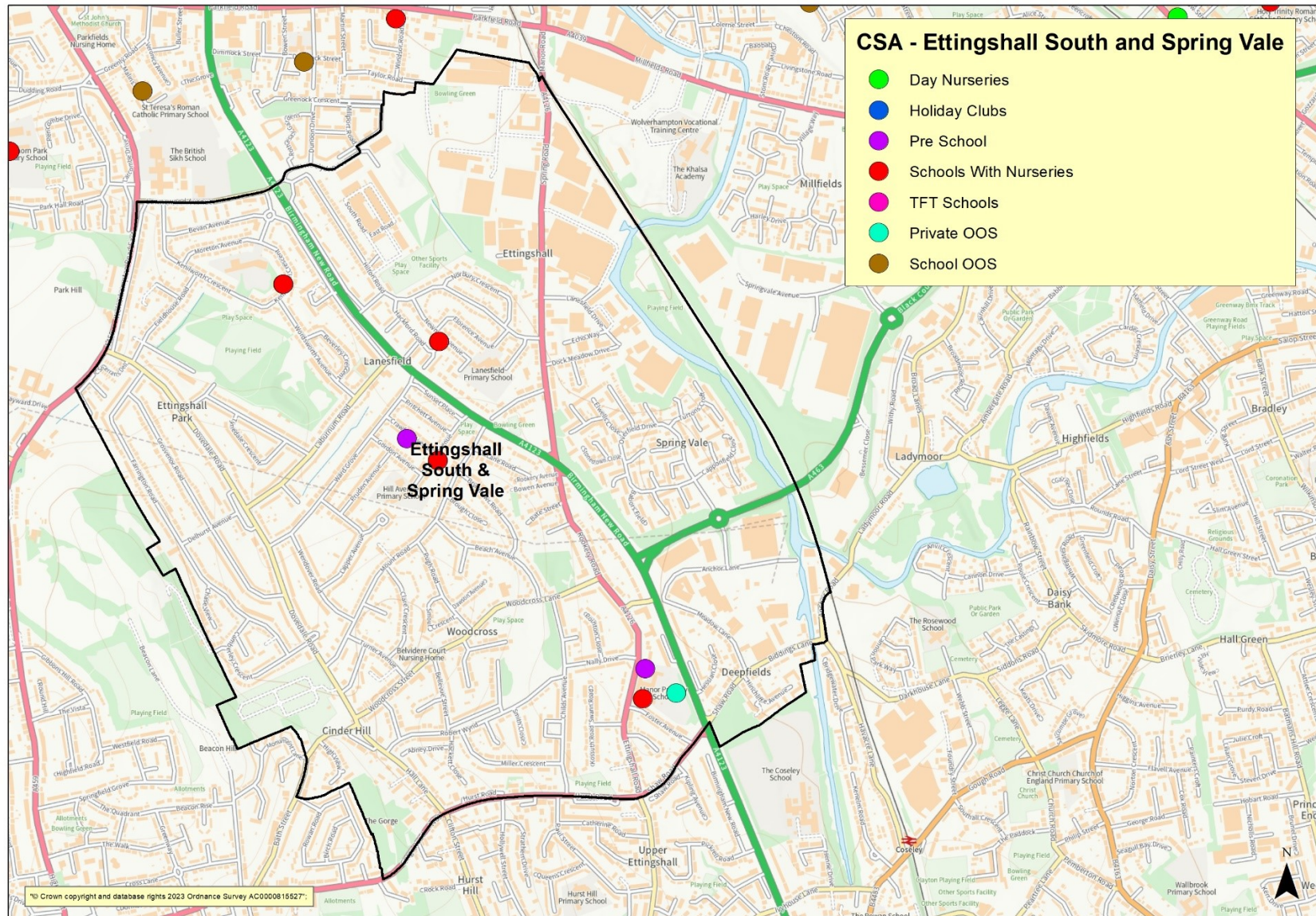


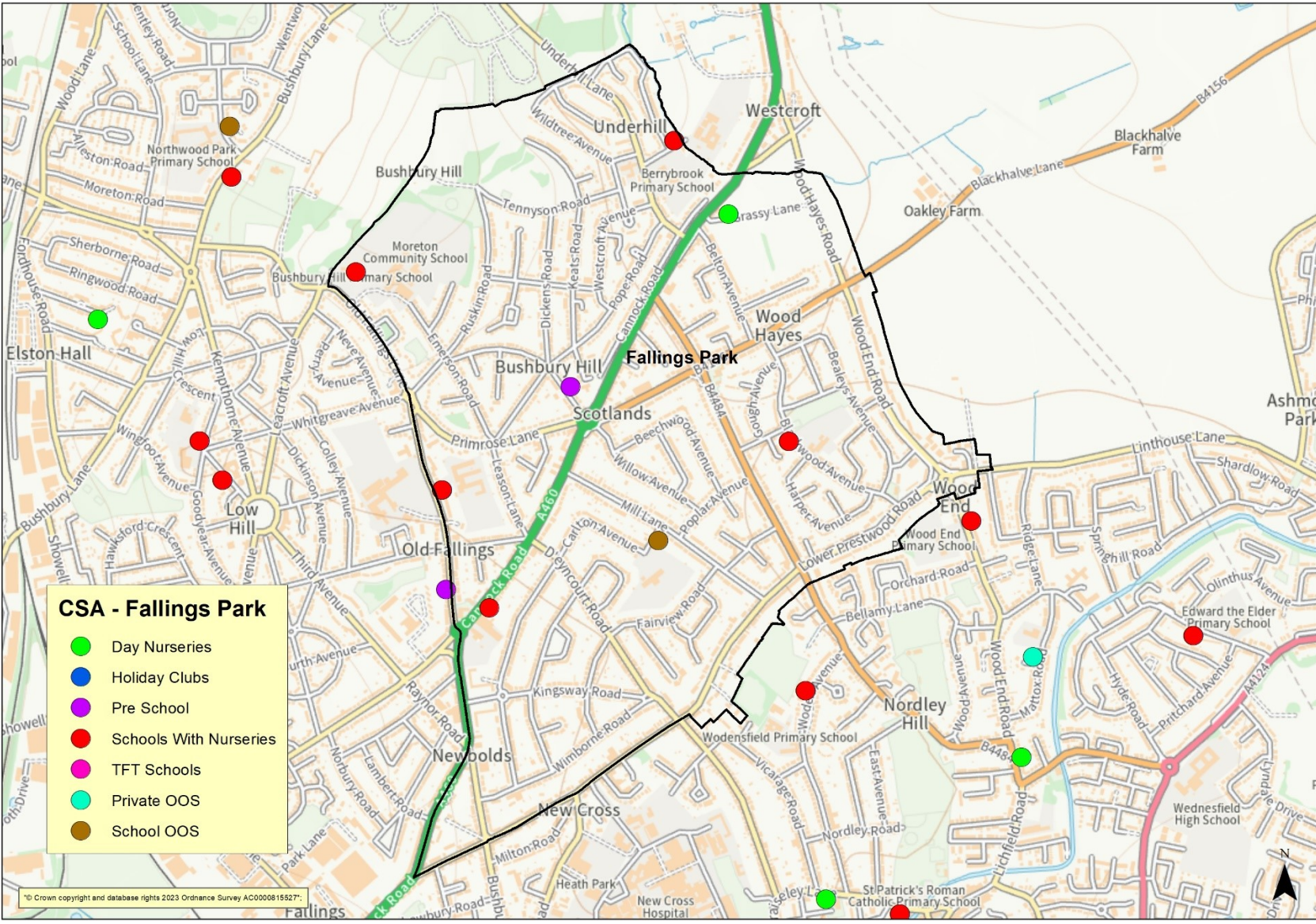












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