

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment September 2021**

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## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the Autumn update of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Childcare Sufficiency Report. These have been unprecedented times for everyone, including the Early Education and Childcare Sectors. This update report is produced at a time when it is still not clear what the long-term implications of the pandemic will be on the sector although after many months there are some clear indications of impact. These include:

- Reductions in overall attendance
- Reductions in hours attended when children are accessing provision
- Reduced provider income resulting from the above
- Future outcomes for children

## 2. Supply of childcare - current providers as at September 2021

Bath and North East Somerset Council has a range of childcare provision which is well distributed across the local authority area. We continue to offer training courses and support to individuals who are interested in becoming childminders.

Breakfast Club	42
Childminder**	145
Day Nursery	68
Home Childcarer	52
Independent Nursery School	5
Non Registered Holiday Scheme	8
Playgroup or Pre-School	18
Registered After School Care	54
Registered Holiday Scheme	28
Maintained School Nursery Class	2
Specialist Service Provider	17
<b>Total Providers</b>	<b>439</b>

\*\* Not all registered Childminders have children on roll. Of those who currently have children, the number of children cared for are well below their registered capacity.

### 3. Birth rate and resident data

#### 3.1 Birth rate data by Academic Year

Children's Centre Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Chew Valley	134	126	113	131	126	126	117	151	150	153	177
Keynsham	207	175	190	185	179	220	181	231	227	254	263
Midsomer Norton	140	160	129	121	153	152	127	149	126	125	102
Moorlands	163	171	185	185	172	177	153	141	156	163	158
Parkside	289	287	277	236	227	220	207	205	201	215	195
Paulton	120	127	137	120	150	140	153	128	141	136	129
Peasedown St John	113	117	109	114	90	104	87	99	98	89	91
Radstock	147	130	161	167	133	161	124	145	134	140	122
St Martins	202	196	192	201	198	181	186	196	189	196	192
Twerton	149	170	148	140	130	151	167	130	113	129	121
Weston	166	170	156	147	163	155	136	139	131	124	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>1832</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>1797</b>	<b>1747</b>	<b>1721</b>	<b>1787</b>	<b>1608</b>	<b>1714</b>	<b>1666</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>1697</b>

#### Birth rates in the UK

The number of births across the UK continued to fall in the year to mid-2020. The 701,000 births in the year to mid-2020 are the fewest in any year since 2003, despite the population being 7.4 million higher. The number of births peaked at 813,000 in mid-2012, around 112,000 more births than in the year to mid-2020. The decrease since mid-2012 reflects reductions in fertility rates since then. *Source: ONS Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2020*

#### Births by Local Authority

The number of births continued to fall across much of the UK reflecting the continued decline in fertility rates seen over recent years. In the year to mid-2020, 79.7% of local authorities in the UK had fewer birth registrations than in the previous year. The combination of fewer births and more deaths means that natural change (the number of births minus deaths) was lower in all but eight UK local authorities in mid-2020 than in the previous year. *Source: ONS Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2020*

Bath and North East Somerset Council has always attracted more children from outside the Council area to attend provision, particularly in the 0 – 5 age range, rather than attend provision in their resident Council area. This is as a result of family working patterns and locations of providers.

## 4. Childcare Places

The number of places is calculated in ratio to the estimated number of children and then subdivided by Children's Centre area to produce an analysis by smaller geographical area. When required this information can be broken down further as far as individual super output areas, a size measurement area produced by criteria from the Office of National Statistics.

### 4.1 Without Home Childcarers

	September 2021	September 2021	September 2021	March 2021	March 2021
Children's Centre Area	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	649	2334	0.28	675	0.31
Keynsham	854	3218	0.27	851	0.28
Midsomer Norton	753	1841	0.41	729	0.41
Moorlands	553	2019	0.27	560	0.29
Parkside	963	2641	0.36	983	0.38
Paulton	314	1746	0.18	326	0.19
Peasedown St John	404	1351	0.30	404	0.31
Radstock	254	1695	0.15	266	0.16
St Martins	691	2811	0.25	707	0.27
Twerton	280	1411	0.20	280	0.21
Weston	824	2196	0.38	833	0.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>6539</b>	<b>23263</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>6582</b>	<b>0.30</b>

### 4.2 With Home Childcarers

	September 2021	September 2021	September 2021	March 2021	March 2021
Children's Centre Area	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	672	2334	0.29	698	0.32
Keynsham	862	3218	0.27	861	0.29
Midsomer Norton	758	1841	0.41	734	0.41
Moorlands	579	2019	0.29	586	0.31
Parkside	978	2641	0.37	998	0.39
Paulton	321	1746	0.18	333	0.20
Peasedown St John	412	1351	0.30	414	0.32
Radstock	256	1695	0.15	268	0.16
St Martins	711	2811	0.25	729	0.27
Twerton	280	1411	0.20	280	0.21
Weston	834	2196	0.38	846	0.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>6663</b>	<b>23263</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>6747</b>	<b>0.31</b>

Paulton and Radstock Children's Centre areas have the lowest levels of childcare provision. There have been significant new housing developments in the Radstock and Paulton areas which has contributed to the ratio of childcare places remaining lower than other areas within Bath and North East Somerset. The Council continues to monitor these levels alongside demand for new provision in Bath and North East Somerset Council resulting from new housing.

## 5. Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year old children

### 5.1 3 and 4 year old provision

Bath and North East Somerset Council continues to have a sufficient level of places for the whole area but this does vary by Children's Centre area with 6 out of 11 areas having an excess of supply. Areas of undersupply continue to be monitored in order to close the gap between supply and demand.

	September 2021	September 2021	September 2021	March 2021	March 2021	March 2021
Childrens Centre	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio
Chew Valley	307	418	1.36	279	447	1.60
Keynsham	416	551	1.32	422	526	1.25
Midsomer Norton	247	355	1.44	272	325	1.19
Moorlands	248	232	0.93	277	235	0.85
Parkside	314	451	1.43	317	451	1.42
Paulton	241	190	0.79	237	193	0.81
Peasedown	165	223	1.35	193	223	1.16
Radstock	234	175	0.75	255	179	0.70
St Martins	359	378	1.05	360	382	1.06
Twerton	194	190	0.98	200	190	0.95
Weston	275	395	1.44	304	388	1.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>3556</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>3116</b>	<b>3475</b>	<b>1.12</b>

### 5.2 2 year old provision

The take up of 2 year funding has remained stable with 321 children accessing the funding in the Summer 2021 term.

We continue to work with colleagues and childcare providers to promote the funding to families across Bath and North East Somerset.

### 5.3 Early Years Pupil Premium

Since April 2015 the Early Years Pupil Premium worth up to £300 became available for an estimated 325 children accessing their 3 and 4 year old entitlement. The main eligibility criteria are the family income in the same way that the school Pupil Premium has been allocated for children from reception age upwards. This funding is targeted to help narrow the gap in attainment between the children in low income families whose learning outcomes from pre-school through into school and beyond are typically lower than the rest of their peer cohort.

Take up of the Early Years Pupil Premium has continued to be high since the start of 2016 with a total of 393 eligible children receiving the funding in the Summer 2021 term

## **6. 30 hours Early Years Entitlement offer for working families**

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, approximately 1308 families were deemed as eligible by the Department for Education for the extended early year's entitlement in Bath and North East Somerset.

In the Summer 2021 term, 1,483 children accessed additional hours. Bath and North East Somerset is currently among the highest performing Local Authorities in the South West for the take up of 30 hour funding in relation to the number of codes issued and then verified by a provider, and one of the highest performing Local Authorities nationally. Parents and families can find more information on the new childcare offers on the Childcare Choices website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>