

Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report Spring 2022

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2022 update of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report. 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 Spring 2022

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**	89
Day Nursery	69
Home Childcarer	55
Independent Nursery School	5
Non Registered Holiday Scheme	8
Playgroup or Pre-School	18
Registered After School Care	56
Registered Holiday Scheme	28
Maintained School Nursery Class	2
Specialist Service Provider	17
Total Providers	389

** Currently registered Childminders, does not include proposed Childminders. Childminders who have a 'lapsed registration' have been removed from this report, resulting in a reduction of Childminder numbers. Of those who currently have children, the number of children cared for are well below their registered capacity.

3. Recruitment and retention of staff in Early Years Education and Childcare

Recruitment and retention were an emerging issue in the sector prior to the pandemic but post pandemic they are now impacting nationally across the whole sector. In Bath and North East Somerset, the impact is seeing some providers reduce number of children attending so they can operate within the minimum ratios and the shortage of staff has also closed settings. There are a number of factors that can be seen to be contributing to what many now see as a crisis including:

- An aging workforce in parts of the sector, particularly senior leadership
- Employees re-evaluating their career options following Covid
- Poor salaries and long hours in the sector
- A competitive employment market making jobs in alternative careers attractive
- The regulatory pressure applied to the sector
- The “cost of living” crisis

The Department for Education recently set up a team to look at the recruitment and retention issues faced by the sector.

4. Birth rate and resident data

4.1 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
Total	1832	1831	1797	1747	1721	1787	1608	1714	1666	1724	1697

5. 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.

5.1 Without Home Childcarers

	March 2022	March 2022	March 2022	September 2021	September 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	601	2334	0.24	649	0.28
Keynsham	802	3218	0.24	854	0.27
Midsomer Norton	630	1841	0.34	753	0.41
Moorlands	505	2019	0.24	553	0.27
Parkside	945	2641	0.35	963	0.36
Paulton	296	1746	0.17	314	0.18
Peasedown St John	392	1351	0.28	404	0.30
Radstock	225	1695	0.13	254	0.15
St Martins	698	2811	0.24	691	0.25
Twerton	263	1411	0.18	280	0.20
Weston	783	2196	0.35	824	0.38
Total	6155	23263	0.26	6539	0.28

5.2 With Home Childcarers

	March 2022	March 2022	March 2022	September 2021	September 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	622	2334	0.25	672	0.29
Keynsham	807	3218	0.24	862	0.27
Midsomer Norton	635	1841	0.34	758	0.41
Moorlands	533	2019	0.26	579	0.29
Parkside	964	2641	0.35	978	0.37
Paulton	305	1746	0.17	321	0.18
Peasedown St John	400	1351	0.28	412	0.30
Radstock	227	1695	0.13	256	0.15
St Martins	709	2811	0.24	711	0.25
Twerton	265	1411	0.18	280	0.20
Weston	793	2196	0.35	834	0.38
Total	6277	23263	0.26	6663	0.29

Childminders who are no longer registered have been removed from this report which has resulted in the total number of places available reducing across all areas.

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.

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

6.1 3 and 4 year old provision

Bath and North East Somerset Council continues to have a sufficient level of places in most areas but this does vary by Children's Centre area with 7 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.

	March 2022	March 2022	March 2022	September 2021	September 2021	September 2021
Childrens Centre	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio
Chew Valley	380	405	1.06	307	418	1.36
Keynsham	535	533	1.00	416	551	1.32
Midsomer Norton	292	345	1.18	247	355	1.44
Moorlands	246	244	0.99	248	232	0.93
Parkside	395	442	1.12	314	451	1.43
Paulton	288	182	0.63	241	190	0.79
Peasedown	203	219	1.12	165	223	1.35
Radstock	266	166	0.63	234	175	0.75
St Martins	449	372	1.08	359	378	1.05
Twerton	231	186	0.83	194	190	0.98
Weston	324	380	1.17	275	395	1.44
Total	3609	3471	0.96	3000	3556	1.19

6.2 2 year old provision

The take up of 2 year funding has increased since the last report with 337 children accessing the funding in the Spring 2022 term.

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

6.3 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. In April 2022 the Department for Education increased the premium for the first time to a maximum of £342.

Take up of the Early Years Pupil Premium has continued to be high since the start of 2016 with a total of 293 eligible children receiving the funding in the Spring 2022 term

7. 30 hours Early Years Entitlement offer for working families

From 1st 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 Spring 2022 term, 1,377 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/>