

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment March 2021**

## Contents

1	Introduction	Page 3
2	Supply of childcare provision	Page 3
3.1	Birth data	Page 4
3.2	Resident data	Page 5
4.1	Total childcare places without home childcare provision	Page 5
4.2	Total childcare places with home childcare provision	Page 6
5.1	Early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds	Page 6
5.2	Early years provision for 2 year olds	Page 7
5.3	Early years pupil premium	Page 7
6	The 30 hour funding offer	Page 7

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the Spring update of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Childcare Sufficiency Report. These have and continue to be 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

During the national lockdown between the end of March 2020 and start of June 2020 much of the Early Education and Childcare Sector closed down. A proportion of providers did remain open to provide services for critical workers, vulnerable children and children with SEND. They were supported with an allocation of additional funding per child from the Council's COVID Emergency Fund to aid, but not necessarily ensure, that they remained sustainable during the lockdown.

All providers were able to access all or some of the following during this period:

- Their Early Years Entitlement (EYE) for the Summer Term whether they were open or not
- CJRS (furlough) but based on their fee income only
- Business loans, rate relief and so on in some, but necessarily all, cases

Nursery provision attached to schools were also able to access other contributions from the Department for Education towards cleaning costs and PPE but with the vast majority of children attending Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) provision in Bath and North East Somerset this was a cost borne by the provider.

With the second lockdown introduced in early 2021, ongoing uncertainty made sustaining provision incredibly hard. The roadmap which details that all restrictions will be lifted in June 2021, this will hopefully see the sustainability of childcare provision across Bath and North East Somerset improve.

## 2. Supply of childcare - current providers as at March 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**	160
Day Nursery	64
Home Childcarer	56
Independent Nursery School	5
Non Registered Holiday Scheme	8
Playgroup or Pre-School	18
Registered After School Care	53
Registered Holiday Scheme	28

School Nursery Class***	5
Specialist Service Provider	17
<b>Total Providers</b>	<b>456</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.

\*\*\* Schools with early years provision which have converted to academy status will appear in the Day Nursery category

### 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
<b>Chew Valley</b>	134	126	113	131	126	126	117	151	150	153
<b>Keynsham</b>	207	175	190	185	179	220	181	231	227	254
<b>Midsomer Norton</b>	140	160	129	121	153	152	127	149	126	125
<b>Moorlands</b>	163	171	185	185	172	177	153	141	156	163
<b>Parkside</b>	289	287	277	236	227	220	207	205	201	215
<b>Paulton</b>	120	127	137	120	150	140	153	128	141	136
<b>Peasedown St John</b>	113	117	109	114	90	104	87	99	98	89
<b>Radstock</b>	147	130	161	167	133	161	124	145	134	140
<b>St Martins</b>	202	196	192	201	198	181	186	196	189	196
<b>Twerton</b>	149	170	148	140	130	151	167	130	113	129
<b>Weston</b>	166	170	156	147	163	155	136	139	131	124
<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>

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.

### 3.2 Resident Population 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
Chew Valley	201	196	190	182	183	169	154	168	146	160
Keynsham	288	251	271	254	260	282	244	241	223	257
Midsomer Norton	188	146	170	159	167	169	151	150	125	127
Moorlands	164	185	177	179	173	172	155	140	160	165
Parkside	280	244	275	209	206	199	179	192	189	214
Paulton	153	148	165	145	140	156	148	136	140	141
Peasedown St John	130	135	130	131	116	120	111	107	101	86
Radstock	146	163	150	144	160	166	142	142	129	135
St Martins	272	261	227	230	232	208	193	210	188	191
Twerton	106	149	116	123	122	145	123	126	112	127
Weston	231	211	208	181	201	178	154	157	134	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>2159</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>2079</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>1754</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>1647</b>	<b>1731</b>

The increase in population in the Keynsham, Chew Valley, Parkside and Radstock may well be due to the new housing developments in those areas.

## 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

Children's Centre Area	March 2021 Childcare Places	March 2021 Number of children 0-11	March 2021 Ratio of childcare places to children	March 2020 Childcare Places	March 2020 Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	675	2155	0.31	666	0.34
Keynsham	851	2988	0.28	852	0.30
Midsomer Norton	729	1771	0.41	727	0.42
Moorlands	560	1909	0.29	560	0.30
Parkside	983	2557	0.38	978	0.39
Paulton	326	1675	0.19	347	0.21
Peasedown St John	404	1295	0.31	404	0.30
Radstock	266	1636	0.16	256	0.15
St Martins	707	2658	0.27	692	0.27
Twerton	280	1355	0.21	272	0.20
Weston	833	2087	0.40	828	0.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>6582</b>	<b>22086</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>6582</b>	<b>0.31</b>

## 4.2 With Home Childcarers

	March 2021	March 2021	March 2021	March 2020	March 2020
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	698	2155	0.32	689	0.35
Keynsham	861	2988	0.29	862	0.31
Midsomer Norton	734	1771	0.41	732	0.42
Moorlands	586	1909	0.31	586	0.31
Parkside	998	2557	0.39	993	0.39
Paulton	333	1675	0.20	354	0.22
Peasedown St John	414	1295	0.32	414	0.31
Radstock	268	1636	0.16	258	0.16
St Martins	729	2658	0.27	714	0.28
Twerton	280	1355	0.21	272	0.20
Weston	846	2087	0.41	841	0.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>6747</b>	<b>22086</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>6715</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.

	March 2021	March 2021	March 2021	March 2020	March 2020	March 2020
Childrens Centre	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio
Chew Valley	279	447	1.60	279	442	1.58
Keynsham	422	526	1.25	422	524	1.24
Midsomer Norton	272	325	1.19	272	314	1.15
Moorlands	277	235	0.85	277	232	0.84
Parkside	317	451	1.42	317	445	1.40
Paulton	237	193	0.81	237	208	0.88
Peasedown	193	223	1.16	193	206	1.06
Radstock	255	179	0.70	255	162	0.64
St Martins	360	382	1.06	360	371	1.03
Twerton	200	190	0.95	200	186	0.93
Weston	304	397	1.30	304	388	1.28

<b>Total</b>	<b>3116</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>1.14</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 decreased since the first lockdown was announced in March 2020. Although more families are returning to work and children are returning to their childcare providers, and the number of 2 year funding applications has now increased. This will result in the take up rate rising again over the coming months.

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 324 eligible children receiving the funding in the Spring 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 Spring 2021 term, 1,260 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/>