

# **North Somerset Council**

## **REPORT TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: 24.10.2019**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: DRAFT CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL NORTH SOMERSET**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: JENIE EASTMAN - EARLY YEARS & CHILDREN'S CENTRE LEAD**

**KEY DECISION: REPORT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY, NO DECISION REQUESTED**

### **REASON:**

The local authority will not incur additional expenditure.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

For consideration and comment, to inform the final report.

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Childcare Act 2006 (Sections 6, 8-11 & 13) require local authorities to assess the local childcare market and to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. Childcare will only be deemed sufficient if it meets the needs of the community in general and in particular those families on lower incomes and those with disabled children. The term childcare includes provision for under 5's and for out of school care for 5 to 11-year olds.

This report is a summary of the accompanying more detailed 2019 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. It finds that North Somerset currently has sufficient childcare for working families. It flags a risk in that an increasing number of childcare providers are receiving 'Inadequate' Ofsted inspection judgements. This is a local, regional and national trend. This puts the supply of childcare at risk as DfE guidance encourages local authorities to withdrawn funding from inadequate settings.

### **2. POLICY**

The content of this report links to the North Somerset Corporate Plan, Children's Services Annual Directorate Statement, Early Years & Children's Centre Team Plan, Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy 2018-2021 and Pupil Projections for North Somerset Schools 2017 – 2021.

### 3. DETAILS

#### 1 The Childcare Act 2006

The Act gives local authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. Working with providers including childminders, nurseries, pre-schools and nursery classes from the private, voluntary, independent (PVI's) and maintained sectors, the local authority looks to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the changing needs of parents. It focuses on sufficient, sustainable and flexible childcare that is responsive to parents' needs. All new schools built in North Somerset will include some early years provision.

There have been no reported shortages of childcare places in North Somerset over the last 12 months. Any parents unable to find a childcare place would be directed to the Early Years Team to resolve.

#### 1.2 Numbers of children & childcare places

In 2019 there are an estimated 11,738 under 5's in North Somerset, making up 5.4% of a total population of 217,000. This number is projected to increase to 11,937 by 2022.

Population projections for 0-4-year olds between 2016 and 2021 indicated that the biggest increases would be in Hutton and Locking + 100%, Banwell & Winscombe + 29% and Weston-super-Mare East + 28%, with decreases in under 5's in Gordano - 19% and Clevedon South - 14%.

The table below shows the total number of childcare places in 2017/2018 as 4990, giving a ratio of 0.38 childcare places per child. The data indicates that Weston-Super-Mare South children's centre area has the lowest level of childcare provision, with The North of North Somerset (Long Ashton, Nailsea, Portishead and Pill) with the greatest supply.

2017 /18	Childcare places	Number of children under the age of 5 years	Ratio of childcare places to children
North	1641	3516	0.47
Central	1115	3302	0.34
WSM East	1471	3589	0.41
WSM South	763	2,572	0.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>4990</b>	<b>12,979</b>	<b>0.38</b>

Source; NSC Children's Centre Dash board and Open Objects

#### 2.1 Early years funding entitlement for 2-year-old children

The 2-year-old funding entitlement is available to 40% of 2-year-old children within North Somerset. The entitlement is 15 hours per week of funded childcare (570 hours per year). For the eligibility criteria see;

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

	2017	2018	January 2019
Number of two-year-old funded children	470	430	564
Percentage of two-year-old take up	82%	79%	70%

A focus in autumn 2019 aims to improve this take up.

## 2.2 Early years entitlement 3 and 4-year-old funding – ‘universal offer’

All children in the UK aged 3 and 4 receive 15 hours of funded child care (570 hours a year), known as ‘universal’ funded hours.

July 2019	Estimated EYE Eligible children	EYE places for 15 hours	Ratio of childcare places to children
North	1459	1073	0.735
Central	908	792	0.872
WSM East	1345	1356	1.008
WSM South	962	750	0.779
<b>Total</b>	<b>4676</b>	<b>3971</b>	<b>0.849</b>

Source; business intelligence and EY's; funding hub

The data above indicates that there is proportionally more 3 and 4-year-old childcare places available in Weston-super-Mare East than the rest of North Somerset.

## 2.3 Total number of North Somerset children funded in July 2019

	Number of funded hours (a)	Number of children (b)	(a)/(b) =
<b>Two-year olds (15 hours)</b>	19,255	452	43
<b>3- and 4-year olds universal hours (15 hours)</b>	161,015	3,780	42
<b>3- and 4-year olds extended hours (30 hours)</b>	66,694	1,882	35

Source; NSC EY Funding hub. July 2019 funding claim data

## 2.4 Tax free childcare

Tax free childcare was introduced in the summer of 2017. Many providers in North Somerset have signed up to accept this, making childcare more accessible and affordable for parents. See Childcare Choices website for more information - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>.

## 2.5 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding

EYPP was introduced in April 2015. It is for 3 and 4-year olds from economically disadvantaged households who are in receipt of Universal Credit with an income of less than £7,400 per annum, and those children who are in care or have been in care. The uptake of this funding and associated additional support for providers, children and families, is a North Somerset strategic priority. The early years team and children's centres encourage providers to claim this funding to support these children and reduce the educational attainment gap. Focus to date shows the following improvement in the uptake of funding:

EYPP Payments October 2018	184 Early Years children
EYPP Payments June 2019	369 Early Years children

## 2.6 Top Up Funding (TUF)

TUF is allocated for children who have additional learning needs. It can be spent on staff training, additional staff support for the child within the setting, as well as additional resources and equipment. Between September 2018 and July 2019 there were 136 children with allocated TUF.

## 3. The cost of childcare

The costs of childcare vary across the country with the highest being in London and the lowest in the North West. The South West sits in the midrange. In North Somerset the average childcare costs in December 2018 for 3 and 4-year olds were £147 for 25 hours a week and £294 for 50 hours a week. Parents are paying considerably less for childcare for 3 and 4-year olds than for younger children. There are two key drivers for this: families are receiving funded hours meaning that parents are paying for fewer hours and lower staff to child ratios meaning that childcare costs less to provide.

## 4. Quality of Childcare in North Somerset

4.1 Below is a breakdown of North Somerset's registered childcare providers.

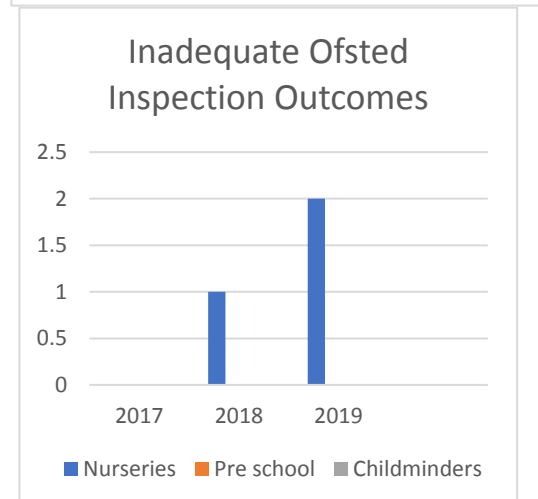
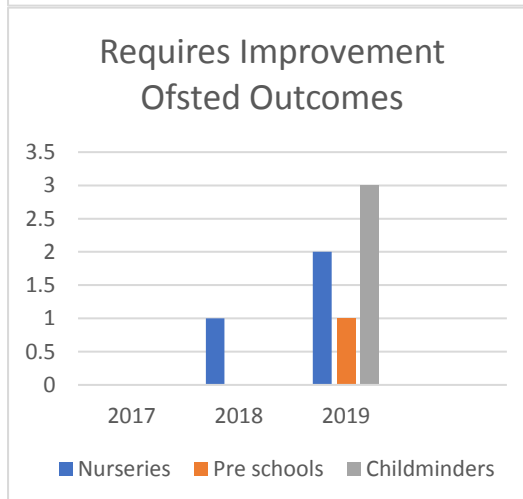
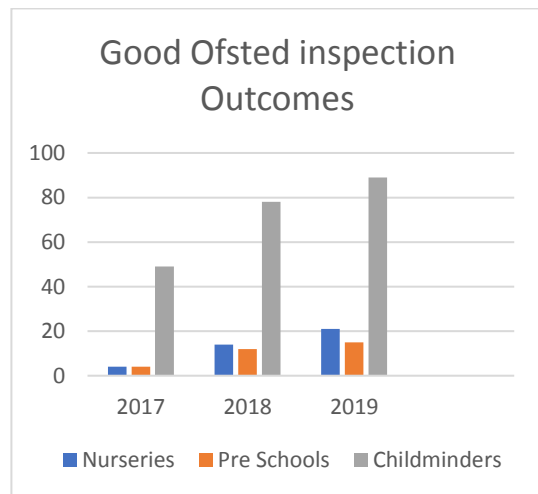
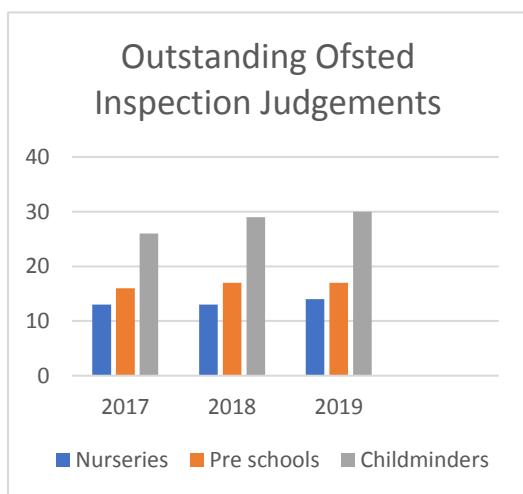
Type of provider	Number of providers 2017	2018	2019
Childminders	179	155	155
Day nurseries	44	44	43
Governor run nursery on school site	Info not available	2	2
Independent Schools with nursery provision	Info not available	3	3
Pre schools	43	39 39	39
School nursery class	9	10 10	11
School with two-year-old nursery provision	Info not available	3	3
Specialist service provider (Springboard)	3	4	4
Out of School provision	19	20	19

In addition to early years providers, North Somerset has of Out of School provision (breakfast, after school and holiday clubs), predominately on school sites.

#### 4.2 Ofsted inspection outcomes

Inspections for childcare providers follow a three-year cycle. The below information confirms in the last 3 years the quality of early years provision in North Somerset remains high with outstanding and good outcomes. The last 12 months has seen an increase in the number of inadequate providers. The three local authority nurseries have outstanding Ofsted inspection outcomes.

In 2017/18 there were no inadequate providers. In 2019 we have 3. This could impact on the supply of childcare. This is in line with the national trend.



### 4.3 Childcare providers and Ofsted inspections as of 31 August 2018

#### All providers

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	19%	76%	4%	1%
South West	22%	74%	4%	0%
North Somerset	31%	66%	3%	0%

#### Childminders

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	16%	78%	5%	1%
South West	20%	76%	3%	0%
North Somerset	24%	75%	1%	0%

### 4.4 Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) data August 2018

	Good Level of Development (GLD)	A Supporting Measure for a GLD	Inequality Gap
National	71.5%	34.6 APS	31.8%
South West	71.3%	34.7 APS	28.6%
North Somerset	75.5%	35.6 APS	24.0%

#### Good Level of Development (GLD)

Ranked 17<sup>th</sup> Nationally

#### Supporting Measure for a GLD (APS: Average Point Score)

Ranked 26<sup>th</sup> Nationally

#### Inequality gap

Ranked 6<sup>th</sup> Nationally

#### GLD and children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) 52%

Ranked 112<sup>th</sup> Nationally

### 5 SEND/Inclusion

**5.1** In September 2017, Springboard Opportunity Group (North Somerset's specialist provision supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities SEND) extended their services by providing an additional 7 places at Castle Batch Children's Centre. This compliments their existing Service Level Agreement with NSC where they continue to offer quality support to our SEND children in early year's settings across North Somerset. Within the last year we've seen an increased parental awareness, take up and impact of 30 hours funded childcare including children with SEND. 26 childminders have completed additional enhanced professional development to build their skills, knowledge and confidence in supporting SEND children to support the 'extended' 30-hour funded childcare offer.

### 6 Support for early years providers from North Somerset Council

**6.1** In order to develop, create and maintain high quality childcare, it is essential that there is a well-trained, qualified, professional early years and childcare workforce. The Early Years Team works in partnership with the Family Information Service (FIS) and the Education Funding Team, to ensure enquires from providers and other agencies involved in developing new provision within North Somerset are addressed. The introduction and on-going development of the North Somerset funding hub has and will continue to help in providing information to assist sufficiency updates.

Information, advice and support includes:

- Setting up childcare provision;
- Ofsted registration and inspection;
- Sustainability of childcare provision;
- CPD including regular Provider briefings and Workforce Development days;
- Safeguarding including Annual Safeguarding Audit
- Area SENCO advice, guidance and CPD;
- Meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Moderation and assessment of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)
- Work in partnership with other agencies involved in supporting young children; Children’s Centres, SEND team, Health Visitors, Portage, Speech and Language Therapist, Springboard, Job Centre Plus, etc.

## **6.2 Action Plan**

To mitigate the risks of increasing numbers of settings receiving inadequate inspection outcomes the Early Years team is reshaping to include a stronger focus on EYFS ‘safeguarding & welfare requirements’, support for SEND processes and data requirements and putting more emphasis on re-engagement with providers (Annual Conversation).

The Early Years & Children’s Centre team plan focuses on identifying and working with Early Years Pupil Premium children to improve outcomes.

To improve future childcare sufficiency reporting the proposal is to develop a termly business intelligence dashboard that captures number of children, number of childcare places, and number of funded children by the 4 children’s centre localities, plus a systematic capture of Ofsted inspection outcomes.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

Not applicable.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are none.

## **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

There are none.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Consideration could be given for the Council to develop continuous professional development opportunities for the early years workforce on climate change and the environment for the under 5's.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

To mitigate the risk of increasing numbers of providers with an inadequate Ofsted Inspection judgement the Early Years Team is being restructured. One post will lead on safeguarding and welfare requirements and another on SEND and data capture.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none.

Equalities Impact Assessment not required.

## **10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

There are none.

## **11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None.

## **AUTHOR**

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Childcare Sufficiency Report October 2019– to be attached