

# Hackney Childcare Provision Assessment

2014/15

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# Introduction

## Sufficient childcare

Part B of the Department for Education's statutory guidance '*Early education and childcare*' (September 2014) sets out the local authority duty (under the Childcare Act 2006) to:

***'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).'***

Local authorities should:

- Take into account what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area and:
  - the state of the local childcare market, including demand and supply in particular areas;
  - the state of the labour market;
  - the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders
  - the need to develop an effective, phased programme to meet the sufficiency duty; and
  - the local authority's resources, capabilities, and overall budget priorities.
- Encourage schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am and 6.00pm.
- Encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.
- 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.

The supply of, and demand for, childcare is constantly changing. The figures presented in this report therefore represent the best estimates at the time.

## What is childcare?

Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 describes childcare as "any form of care for a child" including education and any other supervised activity". This excludes:

- education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started Key Stage 1 (thereby including nursery and reception classes);
- care provided by family members
- care provided by a children's home, a care home, a hospital or a residential family centre, a young offenders' institution, a secure training centre, or a secure care home.

Childcare includes some 'supervised' provision for under 18 year olds. This may overlap with local authorities' duties under section 507B of the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient leisure activities for 13-19 year olds.

We regard childcare as provision that is regular, supervised, reliable and provides children with a safe place to be.

# Context

## National changes and proposals

Over the last 2 years the government has introduced and proposed changes which will have an impact on both the supply of, and demand for, childcare.

- Extension of the free entitlement to include 15 hours per week of early education for 20% of the most disadvantaged 2 year olds from September 2013 increasing to 40% in September 2014 (eligibility criteria set out in Appendix A).
- Replacing all benefits and tax credits with a Universal Credit.
- Freezing basic and 30-hour elements of Working Tax Credit.
- Reduction of the percentage of childcare costs that parents can claim through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit from 80 per cent to 70 per cent level.
- Changes to the Working Tax Credit eligibility rules so that couples with children must work 24 hours per week between them with one partner working at least 16 hours a week - currently only one parent must be working 16 hours in order to qualify.
- Abolishing Child Tax Credit for families earning more than £40k per year.
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit new claims and changes of circumstance backdated only 1 month
- Child Tax Credit baby element has been abolished
- Working Tax Credit for single parent and couple element frozen for one year
- Total household benefit payments for working age claimants are capped at £500 per week for couple and lone parent households.

The extension of the free entitlement to early education will have a considerable impact on the supply of and demand for childcare. This is particularly an issue in the Orthodox Jewish community in Areas A and B, as the independent school sector has not in the past admitted children earlier than the term of their third birthday.

The changes to welfare benefits and tax credits could affect demand for childcare. The increases in eligibility thresholds for tax credits and reductions in the maximum amount payable towards the costs of childcare through the childcare element of working tax credit, coupled with freezes in child and other household benefits may mean that fewer families can afford childcare. There are a number of proposals from government and Ofsted which have been consulted on including:

- Childminder Agencies - enabling the creation of childminder agencies
- Introducing Early Years Teachers who will specialise in early childhood development and meet the same entry requirements and pass the same skills tests as trainee school teachers but without having Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
- Encouraging schools to take younger children by removing the current requirement for schools to register separately with Ofsted in order to provide for children under three
- Revisions to the Ofsted inspection of early years providers to assure the quality of registered early years provision and promoting continuing improvement.

These proposals could all have an effect on the supply of childcare.

## Local priorities

Local priorities for Hackney which may also have an effect on supply of and demand for childcare:

- Improving outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged families, in order to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness.

- Improving childcare affordability by working with LBH Benefits Team and other partners to support take-up of tax credits.
- Maximising childcare alongside training and employment opportunities through the development of localised Cluster Employment Forums.
- Increasing take-up of the free entitlement for eligible two year olds.

## Methodology

### Sources

Our data for the report was gathered in a number of ways including:

- Surveys and consultation with parents, childcare providers, including childminders and schools
- Hackney Learning Trust (HLT) May 2014 Census return and headcounts (2, 3 & 4 year olds)
- Family Information Service (FIS) database.
- Ofsted
- The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (Office for National Statistics)
- Children with SEN and disabilities data from the Hackney Learning Trust's pupil database
- Census 2011 population information
- The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

### Supply and demand data and information

Data was largely gathered from the May 2014 Census return and the FIS database. The data is broken down where applicable /available by children's centre areas.

### The needs of parents and carers

Information was gathered via an online childcare survey for parents/carers, consultation with users of HLT 2014 holiday playschemes, consultation with providers and childminders at the Spring 2014 Professional Development Network meetings.

### Clusters

This report refers to Hackney's six children's centre cluster areas, A-E, as shown in figure 1 below.



*Figure 1. Hackney's six children's centre clusters*

# Hackney Childcare Provision Assessment 2014/15

## Summary

### **Current childcare provision**

Within the borough there are a number of different options for childcare for the 0-5 age group: day nurseries (public, private, voluntary and independent); playgroups (sessional – part-time); nursery schools/classes (sessional and school based, some with extended hours); childminders (childcare in the childminders own home).

This childcare provision assessment concludes that there appears to be sufficient provision in Hackney's childcare market to meet the general parental demand. Affordability and flexibility (particularly for atypical hours) were cited by parents as the main barriers to accessing childcare.

Since the previous full childcare sufficiency audit in 2011, there have been some nursery and playgroup closures offset against a number of new settings opening and a substantial number of existing providers increasing their capacity. There has been a slight (3%) decrease in the number of registered childminders in the borough. For providers, sustainability is an ongoing issue in a turbulent economic climate. There has been a significant rise in the numbers of settings judged good or outstanding by Ofsted across the sector.

The map on page 9 below shows the overall spread of childcare provision in terms of geographical location across the Borough.

There are 112 full day care and sessional childcare providers in Hackney with a capacity of approximately 5,744 full time equivalent (FTE) childcare places for children under five. There are 2,621 (full time/ part time mix) places in nursery and primary schools and 1,164 FTE places with 194 registered childminders.

There are just over 1,000 free part time 3&4YO places available in Orthodox Jewish independent schools in across areas A & B. There are fewer good and outstanding settings within this provision and a limited number of providers for other age groups, particularly two year olds.

For children over five, childcare is available through childminders, before and after school provision and holiday childcare schemes. 38 primary schools have before and after school provision and a further 17 offer clubs and activities. In addition to this a range of private providers offer before and after school care and activity. There were 11 summer play schemes advertised by Hackney's Family Information Service (FIS) in 2014. There are additional schemes operating in the Borough but they chose not to supply their details.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities access childcare and the free entitlements across a range of settings. Since the 2011 sufficiency audit was carried out, significant work has been carried out to support settings across the sector to increase their capacity to offer childcare to children with additional needs.

Rising childcare costs in Hackney in recent years reflects the national and London pictures. The Family and Daycare Trust 2015 Childcare Cost Survey<sup>1</sup> benchmarked 2014 childcare costs in Hackney and reported that nurseries, after school clubs and holiday childcare are generally 10-20% cheaper than the London average. On the other hand, Hackney's childminders are 10-20% more expensive. The view that childcare is not affordable is the strongest single message coming from parents and carers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-cost-survey-2015>

## **Future demand and supply**

The stabilisation of overall birth rates within Hackney and reported population increases would make it unlikely for there to be a higher than normal increase in overall and general demand for childcare, which could not be met within current capacity in the short to medium term.

The Orthodox Jewish community in the north of the borough continues to see a significant increase in birth rates. There are difficulties with projecting future demand for places for children from this community and there is a shortage of high quality provision in the area. HLT is working with community representatives and providers to address this.

As government and local initiatives support more parents into training and employment, the demand for more flexible childcare is likely to increase. HLT is working with employment support agencies and childcare providers/ childminders to improve flexibility and atypical hours provision.

A promotional campaign is underway to increase take-up of the two year old free entitlement by eligible families, alongside a place expansion plan to meet increasing demand. Demand for two year old places is expected to rise.

## **Family Information Service**

Information about childcare in Hackney is available from our Family Information Service.

Hackney Family Information Service Helpline: 020 8820 7590

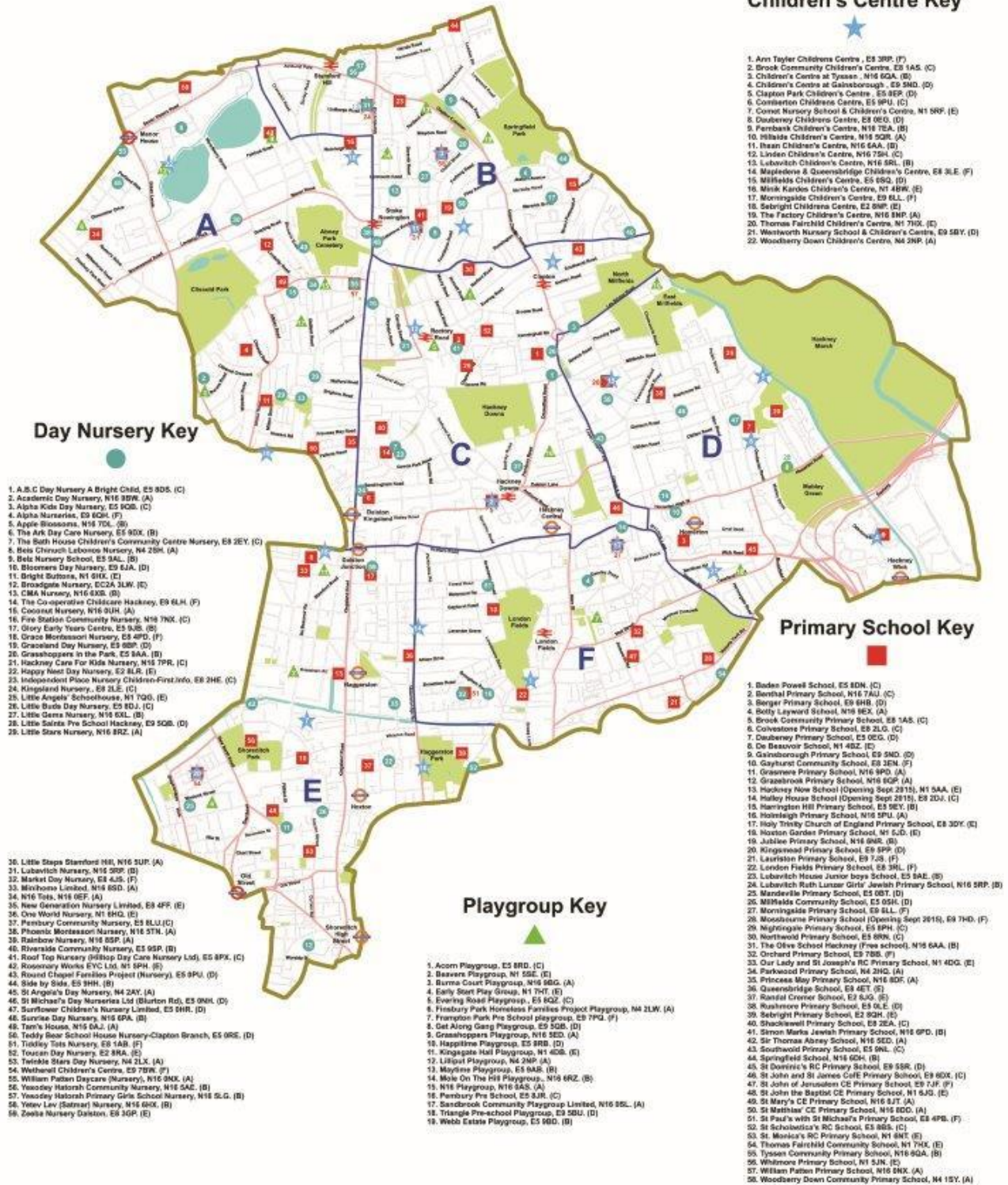
<https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/ChildcarePlay/Pages/Children'sCentresandNurseries.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/hackneyfis/>



# Nurseries, Playgroups, Children's Centres and Primary Schools

November 2014



Ref: HA-14-074  
2013/2014



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Figure 2. Nurseries, playgroups, children's centres and primary schools in Hackney, November 2014. Source: Hackney Family Information Service, 2014

## Key issues

- The quality of childcare as judged by Ofsted and parents has improved. Targeted quality improvement support linked to local and national priorities will continue.
- The quality of provision and qualification levels of practitioners within the independent school sector is of concern, given the numbers of three and four year olds who access their free entitlement within it.
- The geographical spread of childcare generally reflects the needs of families but could be improved further (increased two year old provision in areas A and E, improved spread of after school provision).
- Some work has been undertaken around increasing atypical hours flexibility and many childminders provide flexible childcare including long days, evenings and weekends but this is not reflected in group day care settings. There are significant challenges for the childcare market in supporting shift workers.
- There would be a benefit in seeking to engage employers to encourage family-friendly working practices.
- The take up of the new two year old funding is below national averages. Work will continue to promote the offer to parents and implement a strategic place expansion programme with providers and other partners.
- Costs compare well to London figures but parents report that childcare costs are the most significant barrier to access.
- Plans are in place to develop collaborative partnerships with children's centres, LB Hackney's Benefits team and statutory/voluntary agencies supporting parents into training and employment to maximise opportunities to provide childcare and promote take-up of support with childcare costs.
- Hackney has seen a small drop in childminder numbers and this will need careful monitoring to inform childminder recruitment strategy.
- There is a continuing need for investment to improve the accessibility of childcare for disabled children and young people, through training and developing a strategic approach to providing information for families through the Local Offer.
- There is a need for targeted work with individual and local groups of providers with high vacancy levels to tackle any issues that may be preventing access to services and develop their marketing capacity.
- There is a need for targeted business support advice for providers around specific sustainability issues (rents etc.).

This Childcare Provision Assessment has shown that generally the childcare market in Hackney meets the needs of families, but highlights some areas that could be further developed or explored. The assessment will inform the development of an action plan aimed at addressing these issues.

# Profile of the Borough

## Population

246,270 people live in Hackney (*2011 Census*). The population has grown by 20% since 2001 and is predicted to grow by a further 70,000 people by 2041. It is a young borough compared to the rest of London, with a growing 25-34 year old population and fewer people aged over 45.

In 2011 there were 61,900 children and young people (those aged 19 and under) living in Hackney, representing 24% of the total population and typical for London (*2011 Census*). The 0-4 age band makes up the largest group within the 0-18 cohort accounting for 31% of the children and young people in the Borough.

The 2013 ONS mid -year estimates of under 5s are as follows:

Age group	Number
0 year olds	4,452
1 year olds	4,286
2 year olds	3,975
3 year olds	3,824
4 year olds	3,555

*Table 1. ONS 2013 estimates 0-5s in Hackney.*

For service planning purposes the following figures are used:

Age group	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0 year olds	4,418	4,658	4,748	4,800	4,879	4,923
1 year olds	4,089	4,202	4,426	4,514	4,564	4,638
2 year olds	3,881	3,884	3,990	4,199	4,283	4,332
3 year olds	3,757	3,712	3,715	3,815	4,011	4,093
4 year olds	3,557	3,607	3,570	3,572	3,667	3,854

*Table 2. ONS 2010-based subnational population projections for Hackney.*

Child Benefit data (August 2014) shows the following distribution of under 5s by Children's Centre Area:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Under 5s</b>	3790	5100	3310	3095	2635	2395

*Table 3. Child benefit 2014 Distribution of under5s in Hackney.*

## Households

The number of households in the Borough has increased significantly, from 86,040 in 2001 to 101,690 in 2011. Much of this growth has been driven by increase in the private rented sector and applies across the Borough, but particularly in areas such as Leabridge (in Area C), Dalston and Haggerston (in Area E)

In 2011, 25% of households in Hackney had dependent children, which is 2% below the London average. 11% of Hackney households are lone parents with dependent children, 2% higher than the London average.

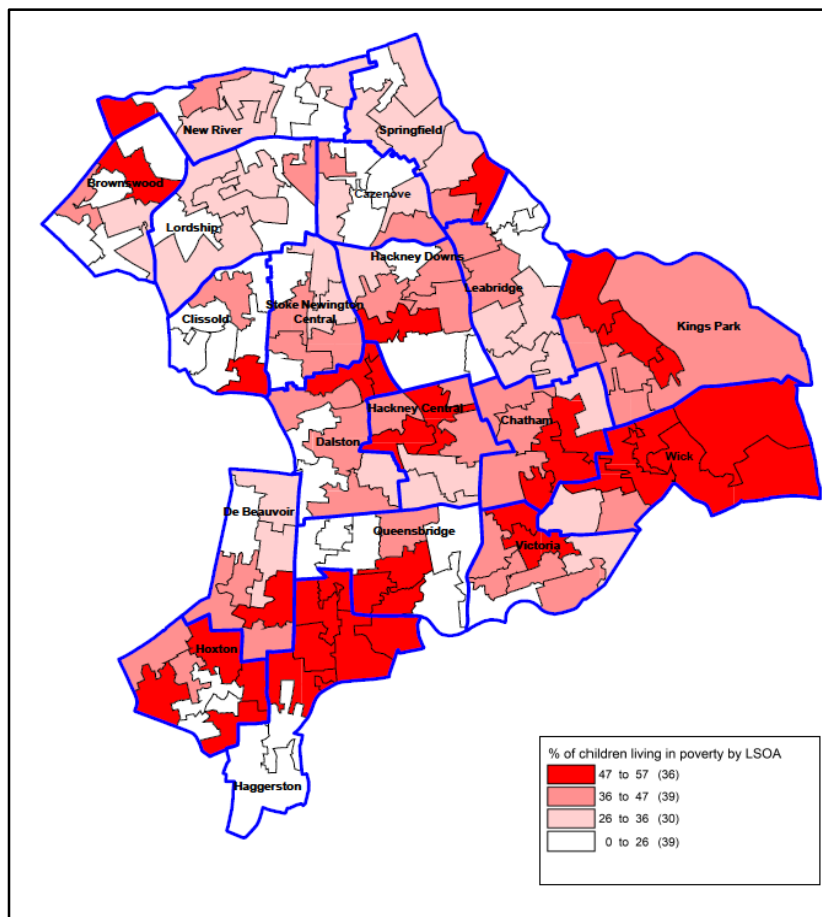
## Family/child poverty and deprivation

For local monitoring purposes, child poverty is defined as the percentage of children and young people living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where reported income is below 60% of the national median income. Using this measure approximately 36.8% of children in Hackney are affected by poverty which is almost double the rate for England (20.1%) and significantly higher than the London average of 26.7%. This does however represent a significant drop from the 2007 figure of 48.6% children in Hackney affected by poverty.

Hackney has the third highest rate of child poverty in London after Tower Hamlets (46.2%) and Islington (38.8%). The child poverty rates vary between wards, with Wick (Area D) and Haggerston (Area E) showing high rates at 44% and Clissold (Area B) approximately 24%.

In Hackney there are 53 SOAs within the top 5% most deprived SOAs in England and 82 within the top 10% (10% being the measure we use in this Borough).

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is calculated using the percentage of children living in income deprived families. Concentrations occur in the south east, south west, northeast and centrally.



**Figure 3. Geography of children living in poverty.**

Source: [http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/Executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/Assets/Documents/Executive_summary.pdf)

From September 2014 40% of the most deprived two year olds in the Borough are eligible for free part time early education places. The number of children in the Borough who are potentially eligible for these places due to their economic status is approximately 2,375. The breakdown by cluster area is as follows

Cluster Area	Families eligible for Free School Meals ( in receipt of non-working benefits)	Families in receipt of Working Tax Credit ( with household income of less than £16,190 per annum)	Total per area
A	150	266	416
B	149	591	740
C	179	155	334
D	202	133	335
E	202	110	312
F	150	79	229

*Table 4. Distribution of eligible two year olds by cluster. Source: DWP August 2014.*

The figures above show a higher proportion of non-working eligible families in Areas D, E and F and a higher proportion of low income working families in Areas A and B. The significant variance in Area B is likely to reflect the larger number of Orthodox Jewish families which have become eligible since the introduction of the working tax credit criteria.

### **Unemployment**

31% of households with children in Hackney are workless, this is more than double the national rate of 14%. Children living in a household where no one works accounts for 77.8% of child poverty in Hackney. Child poverty where parents work is concentrated in the north of the Borough; workless child poverty in the east and south of the Borough (see DWP distribution of families with eligible two year olds)

### **Housing**

Households with children under 16, lone parent households and households with 4 or more children under 16 are over represented on the Housing Waiting List and therefore likely to be living in unsuitable or temporary accommodation.

Areas where overcrowding is matched by a high incidence of child poverty are in the North of Haggerston and Hoxton and South of Queensbridge; in the South of Wick and where Hackney Central ,Hackney Wick and Stoke Newington meet. These are areas where there are high numbers of workless and lone parent households.

Hackney has higher levels of homelessness among lone parent households (1.28%) and couple households with children (0.19%) than its statistical neighbours. The London rate is 1.06% and 0.13% respectively.

### **Lone parents**

Children in lone parent families are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as those who live in two parent households. Only 52% of lone parents are in employment in Hackney, 92% of this figure is made up of female lone parents.

### **Looked After Children**

At the end of March 2014, there were 330 young children and young people looked after by Hackney, this represents 56 per 10,000 of Hackney's under 18 population (less than National 60 per 10,000 in 2012/13)

### **Special Educational Needs**

7,855 pupils in Hackney maintained schools have been identified as having special education needs, about 24% of the school population. Of these, 12% (3,780 pupils) are designated on School Action, 9% (2,902 pupils) on School Action Plus and 4% (1,173 pupils) have a statement of SEN.

4,075 pupils designated on School Action plus or statement have a high level of need and the most common form of need is "Speech, Language and Communication".

The proportion of boys (63%) identified with special education needs is higher than the proportion of girls (37%). Also, special education needs are the most prevalent in African pupils (22%) as opposed to Bangladeshi and Indian pupils who have the lowest prevalence (4% each).

### Free School Meals take-up

	All pupils on roll	Nos. known to be eligible & claiming FSM	% claiming
Maintained & state funded primary schools 2013	19,710	6,628	33.6
Maintained & state funded primary schools 2014	20,428	6,168	30.2
State funded secondary schools 2013	11,187	4,087	36.59
State funded secondary schools 2014	11,888	4,033	33.9
Special Schools 2013	264	148	56.1
Special schools 2014	264	140	53
Pupil Referral Units 2013	121	32	26.4
Pupil Referral Units 2014(Inc. alternative provision in Academies & Free Schools)	118	73	61.9

*Table 5. FSM take up Hackney, January 2014.*

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2014>

# Childcare supply- availability, capacity, cost, flexibility, quality

## Assessing supply

Assessing the volume of childcare is complex. Childcare can be broken down by location, type of provider (maintained/ private/ voluntary/ independent sector or childminder/ nursery/ children's centre/ school/ playgroup), type of childcare (full/part-time/ full daycare/ after school/holiday) and age range.

Prior to 2012 Ofsted registration details gave us an indication of a provider's capacity through the 'conditions of registration.' Providers can now assess their own capacity within regulatory requirements. We now rely on providers to tell us their potential capacity through termly census returns.

This section provides a summary of the total number/type of childcare places across Hackney. The actual number of providers and therefore the number of places changes frequently and therefore all numbers presented in this document are approximate.

## Availability of childcare (day care) places for children aged 0-5 years

In the May 2014 census return there were 112 full day care and sessional childcare providers in Hackney with a capacity of approximately 5,744 childcare places for children aged under five (*this figure includes Children's Centres with day care provision but does not include childminders or nursery class provision in primary or nursery schools*).

May 2014 0-5s places	Number of settings	Number of settings rated good and outstanding	Total number of places	Total number of places for children under 2	Total number of places for children aged 2	Total number of places for children aged 3 & 4
Area A	23	21	902	179	249	474
Area B	34	20	2,363	143	322	1,898
Area C	16	13	676	162	226	288
Area D	12	9	528	100	204	224
Area E	19	14	917	212	284	421
Area F	8	7	358	90	121	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>3,452</b>

Table 6. Number of full 0-5s day care & sessional providers and places.

Source – May 2014 Early Years Census return

## Cost of 0-5 childcare

	Child aged under 2 25 hours per week	Child age under 2 50 hours per week	Child aged over 2 25 hours per week	Child aged over 2 -50 hours per week
Maintained setting	£92.50	£185.00	£87.50	£175.00
Private/ voluntary/ independent setting(PVI)	£120.84	£241.68	£97.56	£195.13
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>£106.67</b>	<b>£213.34</b>	<b>£92.53</b>	<b>£185.07</b>

Table 7- Average cost of 0-5 childcare (full day care settings)

Source: Early Years Census May 2014.

## Flexibility of 0-5 childcare

Area	Opening times of childcare settings (full day care) by area
<b>A</b>	<b>17 settings</b> -2 maintained Children's Centres (open 7:45 -17:45),3 voluntary sector providers (open with some variations from 8:00 -18:00), 8 private providers (open 8:00 -18:00 with 1 opening at 8.30/ 1 open 8:30-17:30 and finishing early on Friday ),4 independent providers (open with some variations from 8.30 to 16:30 -2 finish at 15:30 Monday to Thursday. All these independent settings finish early on Fridays and 1 opens on Sunday)
<b>B</b>	<b>31 settings</b> – 3 school based Children's Centres (1 open 7:45-17:45/2 open 8:00:-18:00),6 voluntary sector providers (1 open 8:00 -18:00 the remaining open shorter hours -9:00-15:00/9:00-15:30/ 8:30:16:30 / 8:30:16:00/8:30:17:00), 5 private providers (3 open 8:00 -18:00/ 1 open 7:30-18:30/1 open 8:15-17:30),17 independent providers (open with some variations from 9:00 -15:30/16:00 ,most of these settings close early on Friday afternoons and 9 are open on Sundays)
<b>C</b>	<b>13 settings</b> -2 maintained Children's Centres (open 7:45 -17:45), 3 voluntary sector providers ( 2 open 8:00 -18:00 and 1 open 7:30-17:30), 8 private providers (5 open 8:00 -18:00/ 1 open 7:30-18:00/1 open 8:30-17:30/1 open 8:30-18:00)
<b>D</b>	<b>10 settings</b> – 2 Children's Centres -1 school based and 1 maintained (open 8:00 -18:00 and 7:45-17:45 respectively), 8 private providers (3 open 8:00 -18:00/ 3 open 7:30-18:30/1 open 7:30-18:00/1 open 8:30-15:00)
<b>E</b>	<b>15 settings</b> -2 Children's Centres -1 school based and 1 voluntary sector (open 8:00 -18:00 ), 2 voluntary sector providers ( open 8:00 -18:00 ), 8 private providers (4 open 8:00 -18:00/ 4 open 7:30-18:30), 3 independent providers (1 open 8:00-18:00, 1 open 8:30-18:00,1 open 9:00-15:45).
<b>F</b>	<b>7 settings</b> -2 Children's Centres -1 school based and 1 maintained (open 8:00 -18:00), 2 voluntary sector providers (open 8:00 -18:00), 3 private providers (1 open 7:30-18:30/ 1 open 7:45-18:15/ 1 open 8:45-16:30).

*Table 8- Opening times 0-5 childcare (full day care settings) by area*

*Source: Early Years Census May 2014.*

The majority of the children's centre, private and voluntary provision is open year round (i.e. between 48 and 50 weeks per year) whereas most of the independent provision, which is school based, is term time only.

Whilst full day care settings do take some children from non-working families, particularly funded children, they provide the main service for working parents of children under 5. Childminders also provide a service for these families either for the full day or as a before and after school /day care service.

Hackney's 21 children's centres- arranged in six clusters (A-F) across the Borough- offer extended services including crèche, home learning and support for children with special educational needs, parenting, health, supporting parents into training and towards employment. Services are provided in partnership with a range of Council, statutory, private and VCS providers. Twelve of these children's centres also offer childcare (10 hours per day/48 weeks per year). This will be increased to thirteen from September 2014 when one of the voluntary sector children's centres starts to provide childcare as part of the programme to expand two year old (2YO) provision.

The six strategic centres offer targeted early intervention and family support co-ordinated through Multi-Agency Team (MAT) meetings, underpinned by the Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

There is good supply of sessional provision for families wishing to access only the free entitlements. Many of these settings are beginning to offer increased flexibility.



Area	Opening times- sessional care
A	6 settings -1 open 8:55-11:30/1 open 9:15-12:15/1 open 9:15-13:00/ 1 open 9:00- 15:00/2 open 9:00- 16:00
B	3 settings -1 open 9:00-12:00/1 open 9:00-15:15/ 1 open 9:30- 16:00
C	3 settings -1 open 9:00-15:30/1 open 9:00-15:45/ 1 open 9:15- 15:15
D	3 settings -1 open 8:00-13:30/1 open 8:45-15:15/ 1 open 9:15- 15:45
E	3 settings -1 open 9:00-12:00/1 open 9:30-13:30 /1 open 9:30- 14:30
F	1 setting -1 open 9:00-15:30

*Table 9. Opening times sessional 0-5 childcare (full day care settings).*

*Source: Early Years Census May 2014*

Of the 19 sessional settings 4 are single session (morning only) but 3 of these will be increasing their capacity to 2 sessions in 2015 as part of the 2YO expansion, 11 are double session (morning and afternoon) and 4 are extended session (single session exceeding 3 hours). Sessional childcare is open term time only. Sessional childcare settings take children from 2-5 years, the majority of 3 and 4 year olds attending will be accessing their free entitlements at these settings.

### 0-5 vacancies (childcare settings)

May 2014 full time equivalent (FTE) childcare vacancies across all providers				
Area	0-2YOs	2YOs	3-5YOs	TOTALS
A	45	82	58	185
B	47	99	455*	601
C	70	74	68	212
D	28	82	75	185
E	51	100	119	270
F	14	18	34	66
<b>Totals</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>1,519</b>

*Table 10. 0-5 vacancies by age and area. Source: Early Years Census May 2014*

*\*The Area B 3-5YO vacancy figure may be inflated by the fact that some independent school settings report only on funded children.*

Vacancy information gives a snapshot at the point of data collection and vacancy situations are very fluid; settings may not always report their capacity correctly which has an effect upon the accuracy of vacancy data. This assessment reports occupancy across registered childcare providers at 74%, with vacancies for under twos (29%), two year olds (32%) and three and four year olds (23%).

The information above is obtained from the Summer Term 2014 Early Years Census data by comparing capacity and occupancy information provided by PVI settings (including children's centres). With the caveats above it does indicate that there is additional childcare capacity across the Borough particularly in the 2 and 3-5 year old age groups. The vacancies are represented as full time equivalent places (FTEs) as some settings offer full day care and some sessional places.

Considerable work has been, and is being, undertaken with providers to increase 2YO capacity through the conversion of vacancies in all age groups and through additional place creation.

## Childminders

There are 194 registered child-minders in Hackney of which 157 give permission for the Family Information Service to advertise their services. They are distributed as below:

Area	No. of registered childminders	No. eligible to take funded 2YOs
A	35	20
B	23	12
C	33	15
D	41	15
E	39	18
F	23	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>91</b>

*Table 11. No. and distribution of childminders*

*Source: FIS database, May 2014*

The majority of childminders are women and come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. There is only one registered childminder in the Orthodox Jewish community. HLT is working with the community with a view to encouraging more people to become registered childminders.

There is no duty on childminders to notify the Local Authority of how many children they are currently minding, or how many vacancies they have, although many do. Childminding registration requirements have changed from a fixed number of children under/over five to a more flexible limit of no more than 6 children under 8, of which no more than 3 can be under 5, and no more than 1 of the 3 under 5 places can be a child under 12 months.

194 registered childminders provide a maximum of 1,164 places for children under 8, of which no more than 582 are for under 5s and of these no more than 194 can be places for children under 12 months.

There has been a slight (3%) drop in childminder numbers 2011 when there were 200 registered childminders, but an increasing number of childminders have employed assistants which increases their registration capacity to a maximum of 12 children. Assistants can have sole charge of the children for up to 2 hours per day.

Childminders are a popular option for parents who need flexibility in terms of hours and /or changes with little notice. The demand for childcare outside of standard hours has increased probably due to work/study patterns.

It has been noted that more stringent language tests introduced for all new applicants and childminders registered since 2008 may have an effect upon childminding recruitment. A Local Authority recruitment drive is currently underway to increase childminding capacity.

## Childminder costs

	Child aged under 2 25 hours per week	Child age under 2 -50 hours per week	Child aged over 2 -25 hours per week	Child aged over 2 -50 hours per week	Typical weekly afterschool/nursery pick up costs
Childminders	£150.00	£250.00	£125.00	£200.00	£70.00

*Table 12. Average cost of childcare places –childminders. Source: Hackney Learning Trust Childminding Team*

### Childminder opening times

A number of childminders in Hackney (approximately 70) provide a service from 8am -6pm but within this group some will provide evening, weekend and holiday care upon request. Most pick up children from named schools and childcare providers for parents who need additional hours in the afternoon/evening. Approximately another 60 childminders offer the same model of care with slight variations e.g. 7am -6.30 (3 childminders), 7am -7.00pm (6 childminders). There are some however whose service is tailored to parents who require non-standard hours e.g. 6.30am-11.30pm M-F & 8am -9pm Sat/Sun. (1), 6.30am -10pm M-Sat.(1),8am-6pm & evenings(1), 8am-9am & 3.30-6pm breakfast and after school service(1).

### Childminder vacancies

Places with childminders judged outstanding by Ofsted fill quickly but there are vacancies in the sector. The most recent information received by the Family Information Service shows that 45 childminders have vacancies, this information is incomplete for the reasons given above.

### Home childcarers

Hackney has 15 home childcarers registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register who can care for children from birth up to the age of 18 at the home of the child or children. Registration is not compulsory for home childcarers so there are likely to be more operating in the Borough. Details on the numbers of registered places and the numbers of Hackney children using home-based childcare are not available and therefore it is not possible to assess the impact of home-based childcare on sufficiency.

### Schools

There are 2,569 free 15 hour places for three and four year olds in Hackney's maintained, free and academy primary schools, 874 of these are extended to full time places, offered as a priority to children with identified needs. Some schools offer the opportunity for parents to pay to top-up their free 15 hour places, increasing flexibility. This data is not captured in the school census and charges are set by individual governing bodies.

Maintained nursery school 3&4YO				
Name	CC Area	No. of part time places	No. of full Time Places	Total number of places
Comet	E	56	34	90
Wentworth	D	51	40	91
<b>Totals</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>181</b>

Table 13. 3&4YO maintained nursery school places. Source–May 2014 School Census return

Primary (maintained, free and academy) schools 3&4YO nursery class places				
CC Area	No. of schools	No. of part time places	No. of full time places	Total number of places
A	10	259	158	417
B	8	131	175	306
C	8	239	118	357
D	9	427	92	519
E	11	319	121	440
F	7	213	136	349
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2,388</b>

Table 14. Primary (maintained, free schools and academies) nursery places  
Source: May 2014 Early Years Census return

There are just over 1,000 free part time 3&4YO places available in Orthodox Jewish independent schools in across areas A & B.

### Quality of 0-5 childcare and early education

Hackney has seen significant improvements in the quality of early years and childcare provision across the sector. HLT's Early Years Consultants Team work in partnership with other education and Health teams to support individual childcare settings and schools to raise quality and increase the number of good and outstanding settings in the Borough. They also participate in the delivery of the early years training programme.

Ofsted quality judgements June 2104		
Setting type	No. of settings	% Ofsted good or better
<b>EY in Maintained schools</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>91%</b>
Primary school (with EYFS)	55	91%
Nursery school	2	100%
<b>Maintained, Private &amp; VCS childcare settings</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>80%</b>
Private/ VCS Day Nursery	65	75%
Playgroup	19	94%
Children's Centre Childcare	12	92%
Independent school	17	70%
<b>Registered childminders</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>75%</b>

Table 15. Quality of early years provision in Hackney (June 2014). Source: FIS database

### Before and After School childcare

All primary schools in Hackney provide some form of after school provision which may be an after school club open until 5.30 or 6.00pm or after school activity clubs which generally finish earlier. Some schools have a combination of both. Some schools do not provide their own After School Clubs but children can be escorted to nearby schools or other organisations. The majority of primary schools provide before school breakfast clubs. The table below shows the distribution of this provision.

Area	No. of schools	After school provision/clubs (ASC)	Cost range	Breakfast Clubs (BC)	Cost range
A	11	6 with ASC with activity clubs 1 no information 4	£3.00- £8.00	9 with BC 1 without BC 1 no information	50p- £3.00
B	9	6 with ASC with activity clubs 3	£4.50- £8.00	7 with BC 1 without BC 1- no information	Free - £2.50
C	8	4 with ASC activity clubs and escorts to other provision for extended service 4 with	£3.50- £7.00	8 with BC	Free - £1.50
D	9	6 with ASC 3 with activity clubs -1 of these also escorts to other provision for extended service	£1.75- £5.30	9 with BC	Free - £2.50
E	11	7 with ASC 2 with activity clubs escorts to other provision for extended service 1 -no information 1	£3.00- £6.00	11 with BC	Free - £3.50
F	7	6 with ASC with activity clubs 1	Free - £9.25	7 with BC	50p- £2.00

Table 16. Before/after school clubs, distribution and cost.

Source: Family Information Service Breakfast and after School Clubs in Hackney October 2014

There are also a number of schemes operated on non-school premises, including the following providers who advertise with FIS:

Provider	Details
Guinness South Hackney Playscheme	Youth club during terms. No school pick-ups.
Bath House	3.30-6pm, £11.50 per day. Siblings £9.50
The Children's Education Centre	Professional tuition, 6-16 years. 4.30-7.30 Mon-Thurs.
Vicharles Play Centre	3.30-6pm: £50-90 per week.
Trinity out of school club	Mon-Fri 3.30-6pm, £40 per week or £8 per day. Some concessions.
Excel Centres	Mon-Fri 3.30-7.20pm, from £5 until £25 per day.

*Table 17. Non-school based before/after school clubs.*

*Source: Family Information Service Breakfast and after School Clubs in Hackney October 2014*

## Holiday Childcare

There were 11 Summer Play schemes advertised by FIS in 2014, there are additional schemes operating in the Borough but they chose not to supply their details.

The age ranges covered per scheme varied but overall they catered for children from the age of 3 to 14 (one scheme primarily for children using their Short Breaks allocation or Care Package allocation did extend to 18 year olds).

The schemes are well used and there is a high level of demand for the younger age range (4-7) but there is no indication that there is insufficient provision overall. For example there were vacancies in the scheme run at Baden Powell School in the 8-12 year old age range.

The lowest daily rate for those schemes which applied a charge was £5.50 (Baden Powell scheme subsidised by the Authority) and the highest was £35.00 a day.

Playschemes also run during half term and Easter holidays.

Childminders also provide a holiday service for many children and can provide an opportunity for school age children to be cared for with their younger siblings during the holiday periods (and after school during term time).

## Childcare for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Over recent years HLT has worked with schools and childcare providers to improve the capacity of the early years settings to support children with disabilities and additional needs through training and support to individual settings.

Children identified with SEN attending maintained nursery and primary schools are able to access additional support from their school's delegated SEN funding. There are 8 FTE designated SEN places in the two maintained nursery schools, primarily for assessment of complex needs.

In childcare settings, two schemes passport additional funding for children with additional needs:

- The Funding of Support Workers through the subsidised childcare programme in 8 voluntary sector settings (playgroups and nurseries) to provide childcare for, and support the assessment of, children with additional needs.
- Supported childcare funding – this provides additional support for 60 individual children with additional needs in settings.

## Subsidised Childcare in Hackney

HLT's Early Years Service provides childcare funding to support the delivery of affordable childcare for low income families and for children who meet other eligibility criteria as follows-

- Delivery of childcare places via Children's Centres. Charges are based upon a banding system related to household income.
- Delivery of childcare places via 18 private and voluntary sector nurseries through the subsidised childcare programme. In 2014 /15 200 part time childcare places were available through this programme for low income Hackney resident families.
- Delivery of childcare places via 16 voluntary sector playgroups through the subsidised childcare programme. A contribution is made towards the running costs of the playgroups to allow them to deliver affordable childcare places to low income Hackney residents.
- Funding of childcare places in a range of childcare settings through the subsidised childcare programme for children whose families are in crisis. These placements are allocated via the Children's Centre Multi Agency Teams (MAT).
- 36 places for Children In Need in Hackney's children's centres in partnership with Children's Social Care
- Holiday Playscheme funding –the Authority funds holiday playscheme provision on school premises during the Easter (2 weeks) and Summer Holidays (4 weeks).The maximum charge per child for a Hackney resident using this scheme was £13.00 per day for a 4-7 year old place (full fee) and the minimum was £5.50 per day for an 8-12 year old place if the parent was in receipt of income support. Sibling discounts are offered which reduce the price for 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent children. Hackney is regularly identified in the Family and Childcare Trust survey as one of the least expensive schemes for users in the country. Approximately 100 places were available in the summer 2014 schemes.
- Funding for school based after school provision is made available to schools to support access to afterschool provision by low income families i.e. those who meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals and who would benefit from access to the provision.

## Statutory free entitlements

The Authority administers funding for the free early education entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

All 3 and 4 year olds (from the term after the child's third birthday) are entitled to 570 hours per year of free early education/childcare taken as no more than 15 hours per week over no fewer than 38 weeks per year. 2014 take up of this free entitlement in Hackney is high, approximately 96% (source: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-benchmarking-tool](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-benchmarking-tool).) and is taken in both sessional and full day care/education settings and in school nursery classes across the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors.

The 2 year old free entitlement is a recent introduction. In September 2013 20% of the most deprived 2 Year olds in the Borough became eligible for this free entitlement and this was extended to 40% in September 2014 by the inclusion of Working Tax Credit within the eligibility criteria. This increased Hackney's eligible two year olds from 989 to 2,304. Take up in Hackney is low and there is considerable work still to be done on marketing the entitlement to eligible families.

Two year old entitlement and take-up			
Date	Eligible	Placed	%
July 2014	989	768	78%
Nov 2014	2,304	967	42%

*Table 18. Two year old entitlement eligibility and take-up, Nov 2014, Hackney.*

*Source: HLT 2YO data base*

Two year old capacity within the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sector is being developed through the use of existing spare capacity and by developing new provision through the use of 2YO capacity building funding and capital.

### **Workforce Development**

Hackney learning Trust's Early Years team develops and delivers the annual training programme for day care settings which reflects training and quality priorities e.g. the current programme focuses on statutory requirements and the two year old offer.

### **Business support for providers**

Hackney learning Trust's Early Years Business Support Officer provides advice and support to day care settings around setting new provision, sustainability and business planning. The Childminding Team performs a similar function for childminders in addition to providing pre-and post-registration training.

# Understanding the needs of parents and carers

As noted in the earlier sections of the report the supply of childcare in Hackney is generally good but parents identified difficulties with finding childcare which is sufficiently flexible for those who work part time or do shift work. Work has been, and is being done, with childcare providers to develop more flexible business models. Schools are also being asked to consider extended services for children in school nursery provision as part of a central government initiative.

Childcare provision for the younger age range (0-2) has also been raised by some parents with the FIS Team and by some settings at the PDNs.

After school, breakfast and holiday provision is sufficient and generally affordable but parental in feedback to Hackney Learning Trust indicated that they would like the subsidised playschemes to run for longer than 4 weeks in the summer and would like an earlier start time (current start time 8.45am).

Parents of children who enter Reception before their fifth birthday have reported difficulties in some schools with arranging after school provision as the After School Clubs take children on or after their fifth birthday.

Some parents of children with additional needs and disabilities have experienced difficulties trying to access places in nurseries or PVI's. Comments have been made that settings do not have enough trained staff and/or a lack of knowledge about disabilities which makes it harder to find childcare for this group.

Affordability of childcare is an ongoing issue for parents. This is not specific to Hackney and is often a barrier to parents seeking to return to work. This presents a particular problem for student parents and lone parents. The requirement to pay fees in advance (and/ or a deposit) at some settings causes difficulties for those who have started work but not yet been paid.

It is an issue for many parents that the first month of childcare costs must be paid upfront before they may have been given any wages from their new employment. In addition, a deposit must be paid to nursery schools, on top of the first fee, when starting: many people find it difficult to save for this. Some people who are unemployed – and some who are on income support – can get help with this from the jobcentre.

Parents and settings are very positive about the availability of information from the Trust



# Understanding the requirements of settings and providers

Many settings report that sustainability is a challenge for them, particularly in the voluntary and community sector. Rising staffing costs, rent and rates are impacting upon the future viability of many settings.

Vacancy levels are high at different points of the year and the movement between private, voluntary and independent settings and schools is difficult for small providers to manage.

Settings reported that the single point of entry to Reception has made planning easier although schools taking children in smaller cohorts (staggered admission) can have an impact. They also reported that demand is higher at the beginning of the school year (September) but easier to accommodate in the Summer Term.

It was noted that parents often queue on the admission list of more than one setting and have made alternative arrangements when offered a place.

The increased demand for two year old places is seen as a business opportunity but can cause concerns; the Local Authority role in brokering places is important in this context.

Some childminders commented that they find it difficult to reach out to parents and would welcome further support from Hackney Learning Trust in promoting childminding and signposting parents to childminders with vacancies. As they are self-employed it can be very difficult for them financially when a child leaves without a replacement. Childminders are promoted actively by Hackney Learning Trust (Early Years) particularly to parents of eligible two year olds and joint children's centre /childminder activities are being arranged. The Childminding Network Co-ordinators also actively promote childminding as a high quality, flexible childcare option.

Settings reported that there is a lot of movement within the system in this Borough i.e. parents moving their children between providers.

The Apprenticeship programme has been of benefit to some settings but the availability of sufficient high quality staff is an issue particularly with the 2YO extension. Again this is not a purely local issue. High staff turnover and the expenses of advertising were also highlighted.

Training for staff who work with children with additional needs was raised. Recent SEN training arranged by Hackney Learning Trust was oversubscribed and more will be arranged. Settings felt well supported by the Authority but capacity remains an issue.

Both parents and settings were positive about the information they receive from HLT. Settings which are unable to accommodate a particular parent's requirements can signpost them to alternatives either via the information received from the Family Information Service (FIS) or directly to other settings as some have formed local links.

Childminders were generally very happy with the information, support, advice and training they receive from the Childminding Team.

## Childcare Trends

There are few clear trends in the demand for childcare over the past few years but the following have been noted –

Preference for nursery classes in schools from the age of three continues. As nursery class places for most children are part time some parents continue to top up the hours at a PVI setting or with a childminder. Some may now purchase additional hours in school nursery provision if this is available. A place in a nursery class does not guarantee admission to the same school's reception class which may have an impact upon continuity of provision for individual children. Most parents are now aware of this and some choose to keep their children in the PVI until reception admission.

Some settings reported an increase in the number of families requiring part-time childcare which may be due to employment/benefit circumstances. The varying patterns of childcare requested have highlighted the need to review business practices or settings will be operating below full occupancy. They also indicate that some requested patterns of delivery may not be accommodated in specific settings.

The increase in part-time childcare provision requests for the reasons above and the extension of the free entitlement for 2YOs has led to a higher demand for morning sessions; there is a perception amongst some parents that these are better quality than afternoon sessions.

There has been a year on year increase in the take up of the 3 and 4 year old free entitlement in the Borough.