

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

London Borough of Hackney

April 2018

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1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The local authority has a duty under the 2006 Childcare Act 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)’

This duty has been extended under the Childcare Act 2016 to include:

‘secure that childcare is available free of charge for qualifying children of working parents for, or for a period equivalent to, 30 hours in each of 38 weeks in any year’

The latter was an additional requirement implemented in September 2017 to the existing duty to ensure sufficient places to effectively deliver the free targeted and universal entitlements for two, three and four-year olds.

Childcare is defined in the 2006 Childcare Act as “any form of care for a child including education and any other supervised activity”. DfE guidance states that local authorities should take into account what is ‘reasonably practicable’ when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area. Consideration should be given to the state of the local childcare market, the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders, the demand and supply in the area and the local labour market.

This report assesses the sufficiency of childcare in Hackney through a focus on the main themes of: demand for childcare, the supply of childcare places, the quality of care and the cost. Each of these themes will be discussed to determine the overall sufficiency of childcare, ensuring families are able to find appropriate childcare to enable them to continue with work and training. The report also looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the provision offered in Hackney at present.

Overall the picture for childcare in Hackney is healthy. There are sufficient places, the quality is good and the costs can be viewed as favourable. However, moving forward, there are areas where improvements could be made most notably improving the flexibility of childcare offered to cover out of hours requirements and the demand from parents working non-traditional hours. There is also a need to focus on population growth in the northern parts of the borough where the birth rate is highest.

Looking Ahead

The biggest challenge in childcare provision over the coming year will come from the Childcare Act 2016 which provided for an increase in free early education for eligible 3 and 4 year olds from 15 to 30 hours per week from September 2017. (The 30 hours per week comprises 15 hours universal entitlement and 15 hours extended entitlement). The local authority has a duty to ensure this provision can be met alongside the currently duties to meet the demands of the universal provision of 15 hours free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds, as well as supporting the general childcare need of working families.

The specific challenges brought about by these duties and the recent changes are:

- To ensure that any increase in overall demand for places is met
- To ensure take up rates amongst those entitled to 30 hours is in line with statistical neighbours
- To continue to increase the take up level amongst eligible 2 year olds in line with statistical neighbours

- To ensure a growth in childcare offered to cover 'out of hours' requirements and the demand from non-traditional working hours.
- Encourage the growth of childcare provision in the northern parts of the borough where the birth rate is highest and to direct the provision of new places to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and communities within the borough.
- To ensure 30 hour places can be offered flexibly alongside wrap around care to fully meet the needs of working families.
- To safeguard the provision of places for eligible 2 year olds.
- To support settings in amending and adapting their business practices and models to cater for the new funding streams and changing demands.
- To continue to increase the numbers of Childminders
- To liaise internally to ensure the continued consideration of council owned assets for use as childcare premises and support change

2. DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE

Cluster B

5127 children under 5

Number of setting:

6 schools

45 PVI Settings

23 Childminders

Cluster A

4224 children under 5

Number of settings:

11 schools

20 PVI Settings

37 Childminders

Cluster C

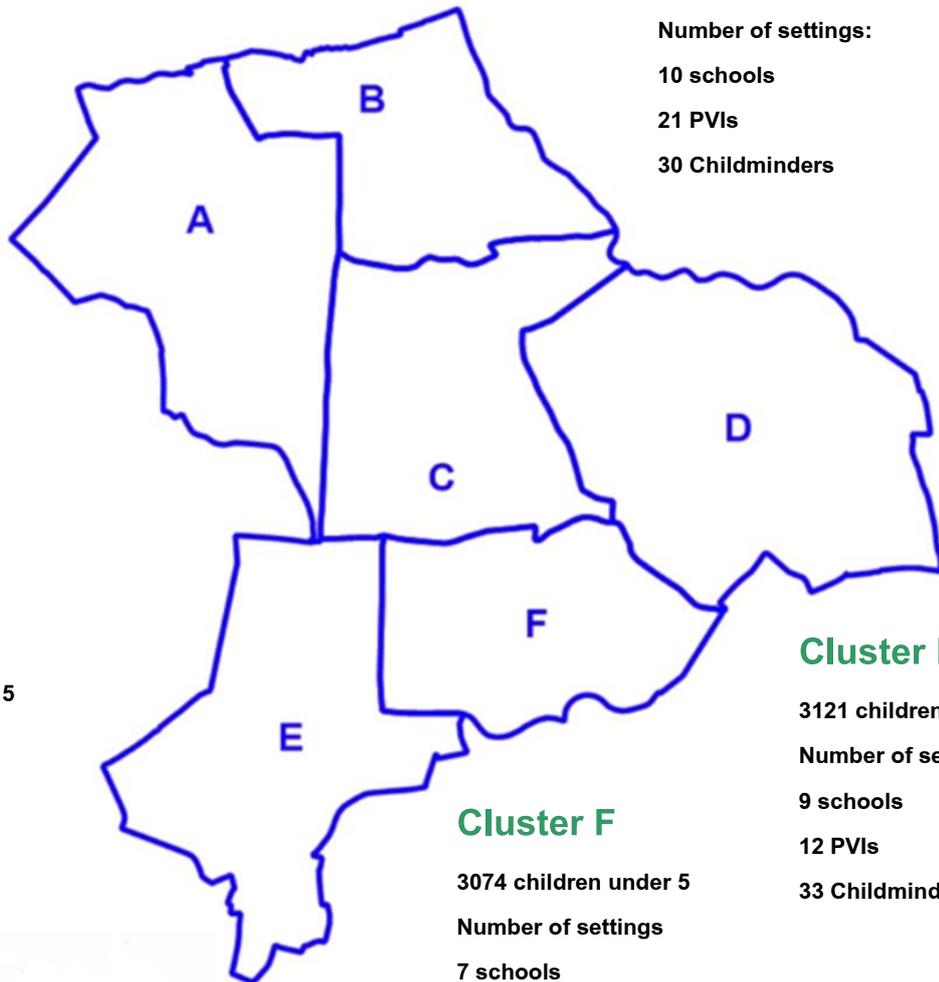
3566 children under 5

Number of settings:

10 schools

21 PVIs

30 Childminders



Cluster E

2766 children under 5

Number of settings:

12 schools

17 PVIs

36 Childminders

Cluster D

3121 children under 5

Number of settings:

9 schools

12 PVIs

33 Childminders

Cluster F

3074 children under 5

Number of settings

7 schools

10 PVIs

20 Childminders

In January 2018 the London Borough of Hackney Policy Team compiled 'A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place'. The data below is sourced from that report.

Population Numbers

The population of Hackney is currently estimated to be 273,526 according to the ONS mid-year population estimate for 2016. The Greater London Authority estimates the population of Hackney will grow to over 331,742 people in 2041

Residents

Hackney is a relatively young borough with just under 25% of its population under 20 years old. The proportion of residents between 20-29 years has grown in the last ten years and now stands at just under 20%. People aged over 55 make up just over 14% of the population.

Children under 5

There are 21,878 (20,081) children aged under 5 in the borough (source: GP registrations, January 2018)

Age	Number of children
Age 0	4,500 (3868)
Age 1	4,300 (4218)
Age 2	4,100 (4161)
Age 3	4,000 (3993)
Age 4*	4,000 (3841)

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

Population of school age children

In total there are 25,200 children aged 5-11, and 9,000 children aged 12-14 living in Hackney. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age (Source: GLA population dataset projections 2017)

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3,900
Age 6	3,900
Age 7	3,700
Age 8	3,600
Age 9	3,400
Age 10	3,300
Age 11	3,400
Age 12	3,100
Age 13	2,900
Age 14	3,000

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). There are

currently more than 1,800 active EHCPs in Hackney. This figure was around 1,300 when the SEND reforms were launched in 2013/14. The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan for Early Years, Primary and Secondary phase is:

Age	Number of children with EHCPs
Birth to school age	68
Primary school (reception to year six)	845
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	894
Total	1807

Children’s needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan.

Unique Characteristics

The ethnicity of the children within the borough reflect characteristics of the borough’s population as a whole. Just over a third (36%) of respondents to the 2011 Census in Hackney described themselves as White British. The remainder is made up of black and minority ethnic groups, with the largest group Other White, 16.3%, followed by Black African, 11.4%. The number of Black Caribbean people fell slightly between 2001 and 2011. This group represents 7.8% of Hackney’s population in 2011 compared with 10.3% in 2001. Hackney is home to a number of smaller national and cultural communities.

Hackney has the largest Charedi Jewish community in Europe who predominately live in the North East of the borough and represent an estimated 7.4% of the borough’s overall population. Hackney also has a well-established Turkish and Kurdish community; at least 5.6% of the Hackney population describe themselves as Turkish, Turkish Cypriot or Kurdish (according to the 2011 Census). These populations are often captured in the White British/Other White, Other Ethnic Group or for Turkish people, Arab. Other significant communities in Hackney include Chinese, Vietnamese and Eastern Europeans especially Polish, Western Europeans particularly Spanish and French people, Australasians and residents from North, and Latin America.

Respondents to the 2011 Census were asked to state their main language. Over three quarters of respondents cited English as their main language, but at least 88 other languages were given. The most common main languages are English, Turkish, Polish, Spanish, French and Yiddish.

Early Years funding headcount data shows there to be significant numbers of children accessing Orthodox Jewish Independent School places in Hackney from the London borough of Haringey.

Reception Rolls since 2012

Year (based on Jan rolls)	Total number of children in Reception class
2012	2572
2013	2738
2014	2745

2015	2846
2016	2805
2017	2757
2018	2633

There number of reception children on roll showed an increase from 2008 to 2015. Overall there were 476 more reception children on roll than 7 years earlier. This is equivalent to 15 forms of entry. From 2016 the roll began to fall to the current position in 2018 which sees the number of children taking up a Reception place in a maintained school, Academy or Free School at 2633 children.

Current reception projections based on the October 2017 census indicate that the reception roll is expected to decrease to 2549 in the 2018/19 school year; 2550 in 2019/20 before it increases to 2638 in 2020/21 but is not expected to increase to 2016 levels until 2030/31.

Deprivation

Hackney was the eleventh most deprived local authority overall in England in the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation; in 2010 it was ranked second. In 2015, 17% of its Lower Super Output Areas were in the top ten percent most deprived, compared with 42% in 2010. Hackney has become significantly less deprived compared with other local authorities in relation to income, employment, housing and services, living/environment and deprivation affecting children compared with 2010.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015-research-report

Summary

The population, employment statistics and the movement of people in and out of the borough show that the pressure on the supply of childcare is likely to remain over the coming years although there a number of changing trends taking place most notably the fall in Reception roll. The growing young adult population, higher than London average birth rate, especially in the north of the Borough and a move towards greater employment suggest a growing demand for childcare places in the area.

3. SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE

Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 359 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 8,460 full time early years childcare places. It should be noted that a full time place identified by a provider often equates to two part time places taken up by parents of children accessing either 15 hours of free education entitlement for two year olds, or 15 hours of three and four year old entitlement. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of full time places according to the type of provision.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of full time places for children under 5
Childminders*	179	895
Nursery classes in schools	53	2266
Maintained nursery schools	2	242
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	125	5057

* Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

In practice, many providers either choose to operate below their full capacity or function below the total number of registered places. It should also be noted that the number of places can vary depending on the age of the children attending and how staff resources are deployed to ensure ratio requirements of adults to children are met.

This table below records the number of full time vacancies reported by providers. These places could be accessed by children who are attending full time, part time or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place.

Early Years vacancies

Type of provision	Number of providers	Total number of full time vacancies
Childminders*	179	325
Nursery classes in schools	53	148
Maintained nursery schools	2	31
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	125	446
Total	359	950

Vacancy rates provide a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In March 2018 the overall vacancy rate was approximately 19%. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part-time arrangement.

In summary, both occupancy and vacancy rates illustrate that there is sufficient childcare places to meet the current demand for places across Hackney.

Early Years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekdays	Available after 6pm weekdays	Available weekends ¹
Childminders	179	57	35	36
Nursery classes in schools	53	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	2	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	125	19	8	0

Number of school age providers and places

Of the 370 providers of childcare for school age children, 222 offer childcare for school age children during the holidays. 179 are childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Breakfast club – primary school	58	Adjusted to demand
After-school club – primary school	58	Adjusted to demand
Breakfast club – secondary school	16	All school pupils
After-school club – secondary school	16	All school pupils
Childminders*	179	Variable
Holiday club	18	unknown
Private out of school clubs	25	unknown

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted and often schools adjust to meet demand. It is possible that we have undercounted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. Childminders often meet this demand with some only offering before and after school provision and others catering for the siblings of younger children during the holidays where ratios allow. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

¹ This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

4. FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION

Introduction to funded education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school²
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In Hackney, 54% of 2 year olds are entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 2,231 children (April, 2018).

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in Hackney, in Inner London and across our statistical neighbours is:

Age	% of eligible children in Hackney	% of eligible children in Inner London	% of eligible children in Statistical Neighbours
Age 2	61%	55%	54%
Age 3 and 4	87%	81%	84%

Source; Department for Education data, January 2018

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government's Childcare Support website. The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they remain entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Step	Number of families
Applied and eligible for a 30 hour place	1604
Accessing a place	1556

Source; ECS checker, April 2018

Providers offering funded early education places

² Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

Providers are not required to offer funded places for two, three or four year old children however parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. In Hackney, both maintained nursery schools and all nursery classes in schools offer both the 15hrs and extended 30hrs entitlement to parents. In addition 42% of schools, where space and capacity allow, offer places for eligible funded two year olds.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Age 2 targeted	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours	Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours
Childminders	179	22%	23%	23%
Nursery classes in schools	52	42%	100%	100%
Maintained nursery schools	2	100%	100%	100%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	125	87%	100%	93%

In the private, voluntary and independent sector, all providers offer free places for the universal entitlement and the majority of providers also accept eligible two year olds and the extended entitlement. It should be noted however, that some providers offer a restricted number of funded places according to the capacity of the setting.

5. COST OF CHILDCARE

Prices of early school years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per day and per hour. This information is reported to Hackney Learning Trust by providers. Providers often offer reductions for longer hours, or discounts for siblings however, parents may be expected to pay for additional items including meals, nappies and activities which are not included in these prices

Price per day and hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
0 and 1 year olds	£59.13 per day £5.91 per hour	£46.33 per day £4.63 per hour	£71.52 per day £7.15 per hour
2 year olds	£56.00 per day £5.60 per hour	£43.83 per day £4.38 per hour	£70.92 per day £7.09 per hour
3 and 4 year olds	£54.16 per day £5.41 per hour	£43.77 per day £4.37 per hour	£70.42 per day £7.04 per hour

(assumed 1 day = 10 hours (8am – 6pm))

The costs for childcare in the Hackney are lower on all counts than the averages of our statistical neighbours and national averages, most significantly for the costs associated with 3 year olds attending for 50 hours and in receipt of the 30 hours extended entitlement, where costs are 30% below the London Average.

Prices of school age childcare

The average charge for after school clubs for children aged 5 to 11 years for 15 hours per week is £38.50, equating to £2.56 per hour. The average weekly price of an after school club or childminder in London is £62.46 and nationally £56.38. The cost of after school clubs in Hackney is significantly (38%) below the London average.

6. QUALITY OF CHILD CARE IN OUR AREA

Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted who give an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register; schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early years grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.³ Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from the table.

Type of provision	Total number of providers	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	179	97%
Nursery and Reception classes in schools*	53	95%
Maintained nursery schools	2	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	104	91%
Independent schools	21	38%

(March 2018)

Note:

- *Childminders: 88/179 childminders have been inspected and graded. 85 of them have achieved good and outstanding. $85/88 = 97\%$*
- *PV Settings: 88/104 settings have been inspected and graded. 79 settings have achieved good and outstanding. $80/88 = 91\%$*

* Overall school grade is provided; where Early Years grade is different, 98% are good / outstanding.

³ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>