

Leicester City Council  
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment  
2016



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## **Introduction**

There is a statutory duty placed on all local authorities to regularly undertake a detailed analysis of the childcare market. The last such city-wide analysis in Leicester was undertaken in November 2014. Since that time there have been considerable changes in the childcare market and so the time is right to undertake a new analysis to support the work that will need to be done over the coming months to achieve the changes within the market that will be necessary to meet demand.

## **Methodology**

As the DfE prefer localised information to be presented in wards and Children, Young People & Family Centre (also referred to as Children's Centre) clusters this will be our method of analysing the sufficiency information. We are also able to analyse the data using Super Output Areas if necessary to support more detailed analysis within specific areas.

Each Children's Centre cluster area has been split into the associated wards and all data analysed on both levels, as well as a full citywide analysis.

Data analysis has included: type of providers; sufficiency of places for FEEE (2 year olds, 3 and 4 year olds for the universal entitlement, 3 and 4 year olds for the extended entitlement, and out of school care availability); take up of Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for each age group; cost of each type of childcare; and, quality of provision, along with an assessment of the improvement in quality since the last CSA was undertaken.

This document has been written using several key questions which are the same for the city as a whole, as well as for each Children's Centre cluster areas:

- How many children live here?
- What types of childcare providers are available?
- How many places are available for children?
- How much does childcare cost?
- Do we need to improve anything?

We have focused on childcare for children below statutory school age for this assessment as this is the main age group for families seeking childcare. However, we have also looked at the levels of out of school care that is available in each area. The figures for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) relate to children up to the age of 4 years.

In order to determine levels of sufficiency we have taken the view that we need 1 place per eligible child as we believe that anything less could mean that children could miss out on this crucial element of their early learning. Therefore, all analysis is in real 1:1 numbers rather than formulae.

Analysis of sufficiency of places for the new extended entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year olds is addressed in a separate strategy. This will however, become an element of the CSA following the initiation of the strategy and places will be monitored via the CSA monitoring system.

### **Breakdown of areas:**

There are 6 Children's Centre cluster areas encompassing all wards in the city. Measuring in this way means we are able to compare and contrast data from previous CSAs, as well as headcount and take up information on a termly and academic year basis.

Within each cluster we have analysed the data based on the population figures we have for each age group using the Children's Centres e-start database as our baseline.

The clusters and wards are broken down as below:

Cluster:	Wards:
Central	Castle; Spinney Hills; Stoneygate; Wycliffe
East	Evington; Humberstone and Hamilton; Thurncourt
North	Belgrave; North Evington; Rushey Mead; Troon
North West	Abbey; Beaumont Leys; Fosse
South	Aylestone; Eyres Monsell; Knighton; Saffron
West	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields; Westcotes; Western

Since our last CSA done in 2014 there has been a change in wards, ward boundaries and make-up of the clusters. Therefore, cluster and ward based data is not directly comparable to the previous CSA.

### **Leicester City context:**

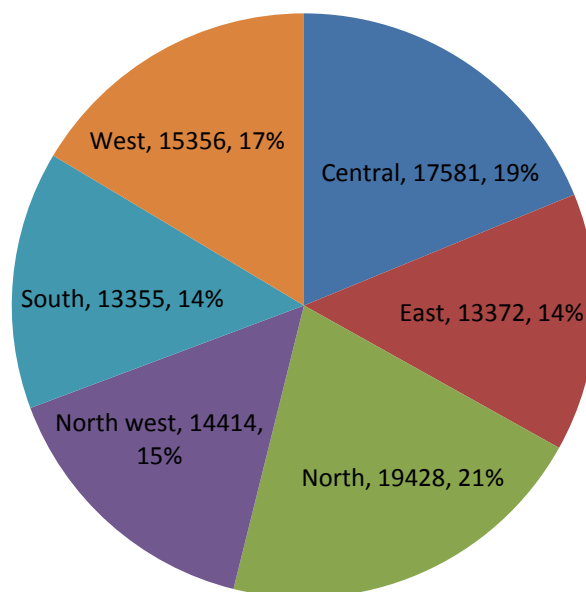
Leicester city sits within the county of Leicestershire within the East Midlands. Leicester has a mixed demographic and there are 18,241 families with children aged 0-4 years living across the city (E-Start data 2015).

The childcare market has always been a vibrant, mixed model of childcare allowing a wide choice for the families in the city including, childminders; Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers and schools. Most primary schools and primary academies offer places for both 3 and 4 year olds, and most of the 4 year olds across the city attend a reception class within a school setting.

### ***How many children live here?***

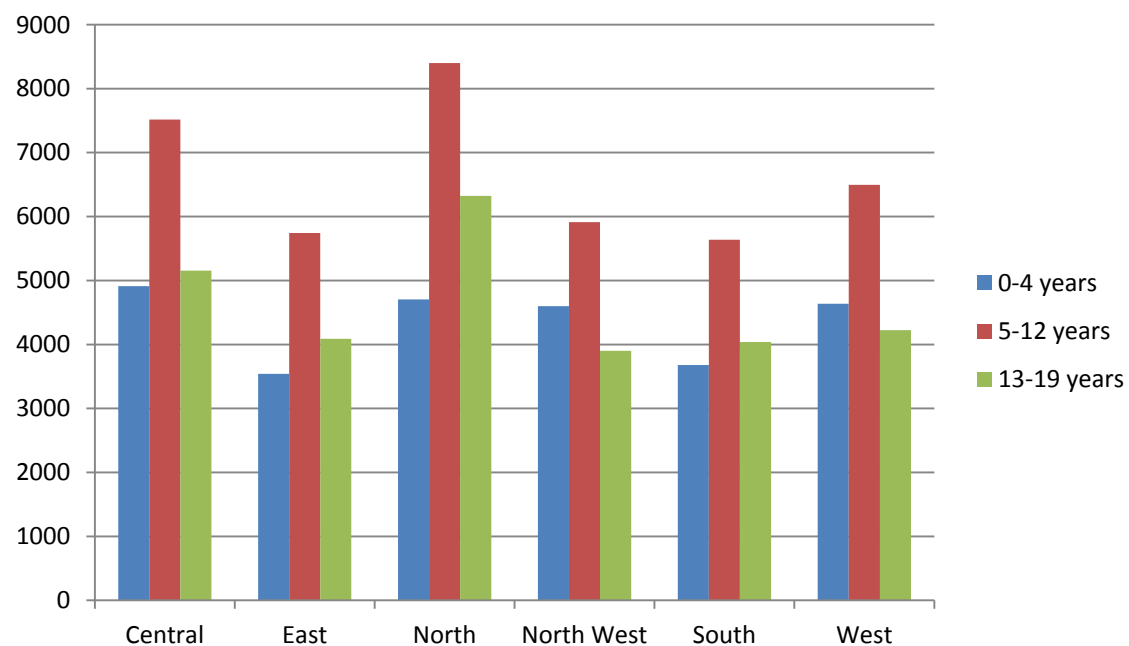
There are approximately 93,506 children aged 0-19 years living across the city (data from E-start August 2016). This is a small reduction since the last assessment in 2014 where the figure was 94,445.

### **Children aged 0-19**



The chart shows that the greatest number of children are in the North cluster area, and the lowest numbers are in the South. Since the last assessment the North cluster has increased significantly from 15,912 to 19,428. In 2014 this cluster was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of population. The North West cluster has also increased significantly from 11,878 in 2014 (at that point being the cluster with the lowest overall number of children) to 14,414.

We can break this down further to examine age ranges across the clusters, split into 0-4 years, 5-12 years and 13-19 years.



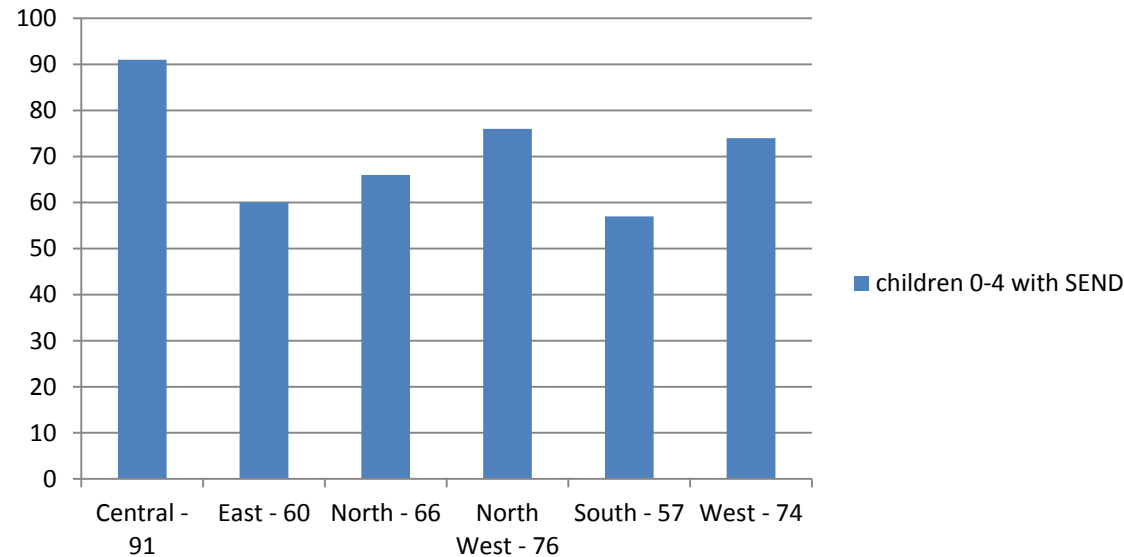
In terms of numbers of children within each age range living in each ward, the table below shows where children are living and presents the wards that have the greatest numbers of children.

Age	Central				East			North				North West			South				West			Total
	Castle	Spirney Hills	Stoneygate	Mycliffe	Evington	Humberstone and Hamilton	Thurncourt	Belgrave	North Evington	Rushy Mead	Troon	Abbey	Beaumont Leys	Fosse	Aylestone	Eyres Monsell	Knighton	Saffron	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	Westcotes	Western	
0-4	688	1092	1653	1478	1138	1691	713	1174	1618	963	949	1619	1641	1340	880	1015	842	941	1872	889	1875	<b>26071</b>
5-12	621	1886	2806	2203	1947	2482	1313	1845	2935	1856	1764	2182	2291	1440	1140	1594	1517	1387	2752	923	2820	<b>39704</b>
13-19	354	1460	1911	1429	1547	1651	890	1430	2139	1449	1306	1487	1582	832	735	1107	1230	967	1906	476	1843	<b>27731</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1663</b>	<b>4438</b>	<b>6370</b>	<b>5110</b>	<b>4632</b>	<b>5824</b>	<b>2916</b>	<b>4449</b>	<b>6692</b>	<b>4268</b>	<b>4019</b>	<b>5288</b>	<b>5514</b>	<b>3612</b>	<b>2755</b>	<b>3716</b>	<b>3589</b>	<b>3295</b>	<b>6530</b>	<b>2288</b>	<b>6538</b>	<b>93506</b>

This shows that the wards with the highest numbers of children overall are: North Evington ward; Western ward; Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields ward and Stoneygate ward.

The wards with the lowest overall numbers are: Castle ward; Westcotes ward; Aylestone ward and Thurncourt ward.

## Children 0-4 with SEND



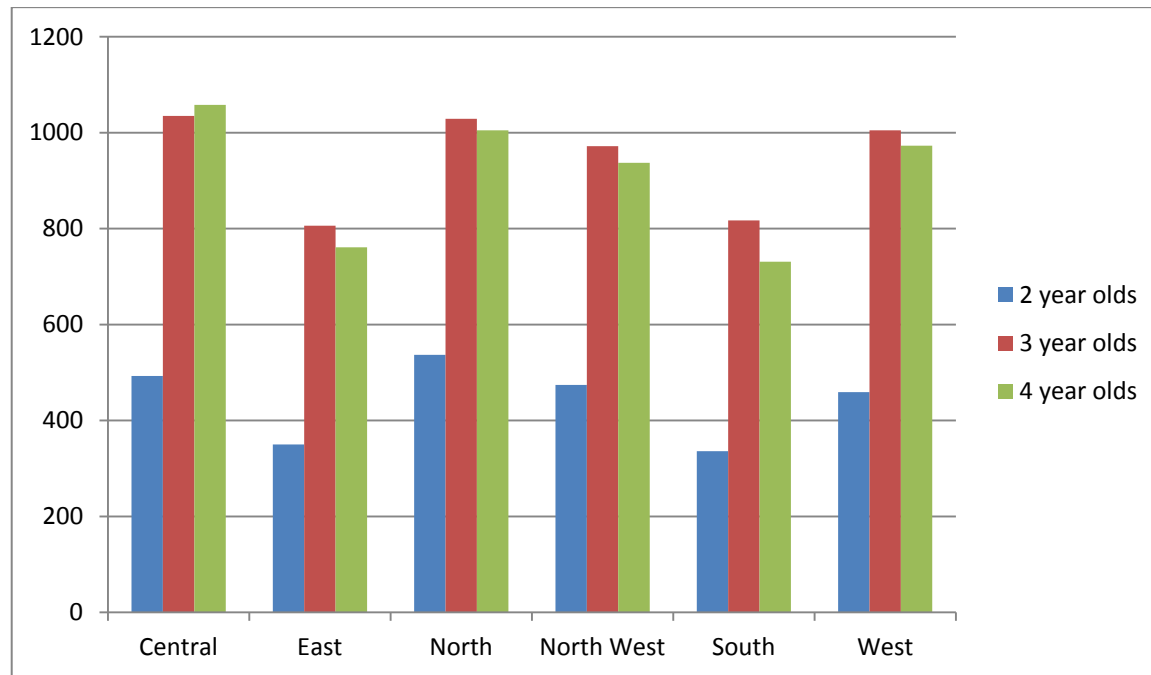
This chart shows that the greatest number of children who have a recognised SEND live within the central cluster. Overall, the wards with the highest numbers of children are: Stoneygate (35); Beaumont Leys (34) and Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields (31).

### Children eligible for Funded Early Education Entitlement

All children aged 3 and 4 years and some children aged 2 are eligible for up to 15 hours of funded childcare in provision of their families' choice for 38 weeks per year. This entitlement can also be 'stretched' to provide fewer hours of childcare per week over more weeks per year.

The chart below illustrates the levels of children of each age group (eligible 2 year olds, all 3 year olds and all 4 year olds) within each of the Children's Centres cluster areas:





As can be seen, the distribution of eligible children is relatively even, although both the East and the South clusters have an overall smaller number of each eligible age range than the other clusters.

In terms of ward level information on numbers of eligible children, the table below shows which wards have the highest and lowest numbers of children eligible for funded early education.

Age	Central				East			North				North West				South				West			Total
	Castle	Spinney Hills	Stoneygate	Wycliffe	Evington	Humberstone and Hamilton	Thurncourt	Belgrave	North Evington	Rushley Mead	Troon	Abbey	Beaumont Leys	Fosse	Aylestone	Eyres Monseil	Knighton	Saffron	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	Westcotes	Western		
<b>2 YO</b>	39	105	151	198	114	161	75	121	216	91	109	168	158	148	60	110	38	128	182	70	207	<b>2649</b>	
<b>3 YO</b>	143	230	345	317	262	387	157	234	372	219	204	343	364	265	200	239	178	200	415	194	396	<b>5664</b>	
<b>4 YO</b>	140	227	358	333	239	362	160	261	333	194	217	333	344	260	172	199	171	189	413	163	397	<b>5465</b>	

### ***What types of childcare providers are available?***

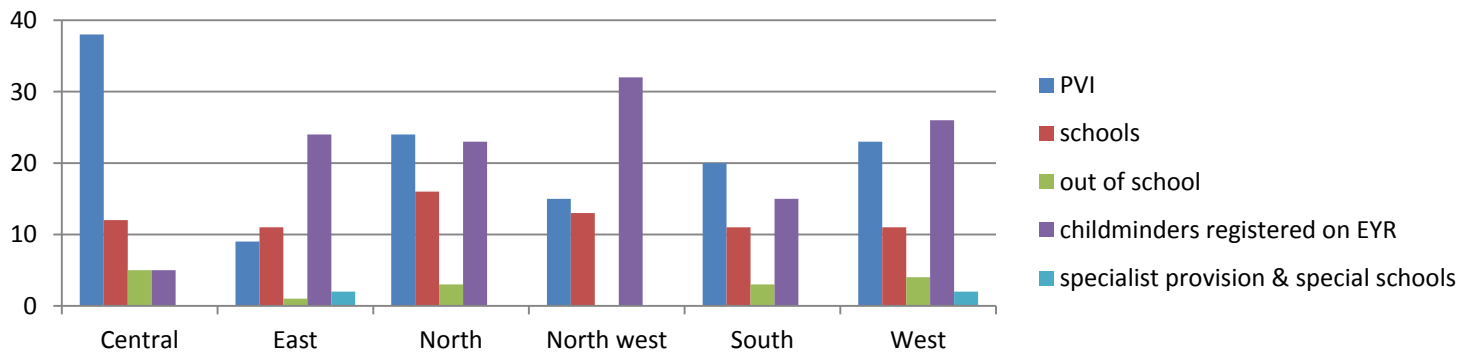
The childcare market within Leicester has always been strong, with families free to access a varied model of provision including full day care provision, sessional pre-school provision, childminders and early years provision within primary and academy primary schools.

This is in addition to a small, but varied dedicated out of school care market which includes before and after school clubs, breakfast clubs and holiday care. Out of school provision is also delivered through some of the PVI sector providers and local childminders.

All providers across the city deliver places and support for children with SEND in line with legal requirements. This requirement forms part of the Terms & Conditions for the delivery of the Funded Early Education places for children aged 2-4 years. There is also one specialist provision for children under 5 years old with SEND and three special schools which are registered for children aged 4 and over. There are two other special schools which are registered for children aged 5 and over.

Across the city there are 348 childcare and early education providers (as at September 2016). This is broken down into 129 private, voluntary and independent providers (of which 77 are full day care providers, 10 are independent schools and 42 are sessional care providers), 74 primary schools providing places for 3 and 4 year olds, 16 dedicated registered out of school providers and 125 childminders registered on the early years register (64 of whom are registered to deliver funded early education entitlement places), 1 specialist provision for children under 5 years old with SEND and 3 special schools which are registered for children aged 4 and over.

This wide range of providers ensures that families have some choice in terms of the type of childcare they choose to access for their children.



This chart shows the distribution of provision across the six cluster areas in the city. We can see that the highest numbers of provision types are PVI providers and childminders. This does not necessarily correlate to the number of places that are delivered by these providers as the highest providers of places for 3 and 4 year olds are primary schools.

To ensure that there is local choice for families we have broken down the provider type numbers to ward level.

	Central				East			North				North West			South				West		Totals	
	Castle	Spinney Hills	Stoneygate	Mycliffe	Evington	Humberstone and Hamilton	Thurncourt	Belgrave	North Evington	Rushey Mead	Troon	Abbey	Beaumont Leys	Fosse	Aylestone	Eyres Monsell	Knighton	Saffron Fields	Braunstone Park and Rowley	Westcotes	Western	Totals
Full day care	12	2	6	3	3	1	2	7	6	1	4	3	4	1	2	1	5	2	2	8	2	<b>77</b>
Sessional care	1	1	3	4	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	0	3	3	1	3	2	6	<b>42</b>
Primary Early Years	2	3	3	4	4	5	2	3	5	5	3	5	6	2	2	4	2	3	5	1	5	<b>74</b>
Independent school	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
Childminders	2		2	1	8	6	10	2	10	6	5	16	7	9	5	2	5	3	13	1	12	<b>125</b>
Out of school care	4			1		1		1		1	1				1	2			2		2	<b>16</b>
Specialist Provision & Special Schools					1	1													1		1	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>348</b>

This table shows that there is some choice for families across each ward and cluster of the city. The providers that are the least prevalent in all areas of the city are the Independent schools and the out of school care. This table does not reflect the out of school care provision delivered through the private childcare market. As part of our provider survey we asked for details of any out of school services that are offered within PVI provision and from childminders. All clusters have some services such as breakfast clubs, school drop off's and pick up's, and after school clubs, although this is not available in all wards and is in relatively low numbers. In most areas of the city families are able to access either sessional care or full day care and there are childminders active across all wards apart from the Spinney Hills ward.

As part of the provider survey we asked some questions around willingness to deliver the new extended entitlement in any combination of three main delivery methods – sole delivery; partnership delivery (where the number of hours are shared between more than one provision) and also flexible delivery (where there is an option for a family to access their entitlement over fewer than 30 hours per week but for more than 38 weeks per year). The responses showed that whilst 72% of PVI providers are planning on delivering the offer, of these 89% would prefer to be sole deliverer; 56% would be willing to deliver in partnership, and 42% would consider flexible delivery.

### ***What is the quality of provision?***

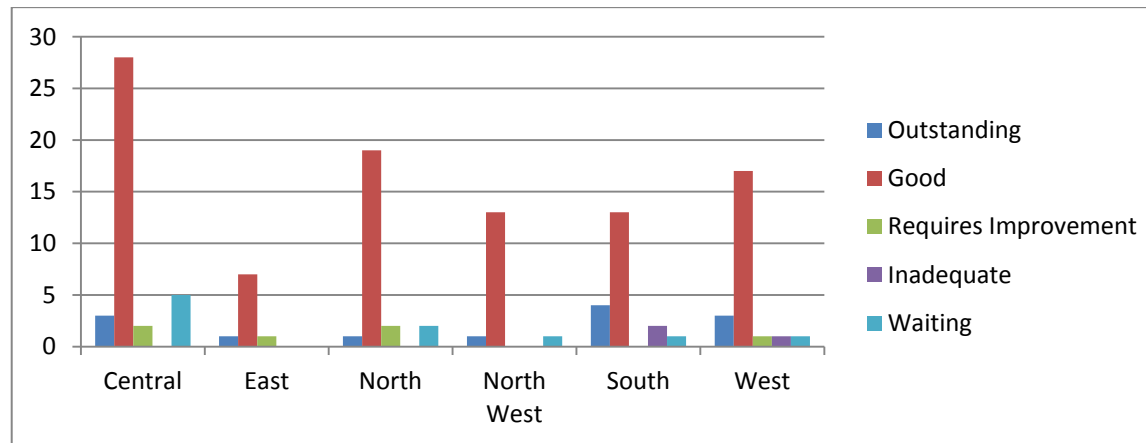
Overall, the quality of childcare across the city is good. Providers are able to access support to improve quality or embed new practices through support from Early Years Quality Improvement Team.

#### *Private, Voluntary and Independent providers*

Overall there are 129 private, voluntary and independent providers delivering childcare across the city. Of these 13 have been judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, 97 'Good', 6 'Requires Improvement' and 3 'Inadequate'. There are also 10 providers that are currently awaiting their first inspection.

In terms of percentages this equates to 85% are 'Good' or above, which is in line with the national average of 85% (data from National Audit Office report for the Department for Education – March 2016)

The chart below shows the levels of quality across each of the six clusters and demonstrates that the general spread of 'Good' and 'Outstanding' providers is relatively even, along with the spread of lower quality provision.



As part of our provider survey we asked if there was either an Early Years Professional (EYP) or a Qualified Teacher (QTS) employed at the provision. The response overall showed that 63% of provision has graduate level staff employed at their setting. There were also a small number of providers that informed us that they have staff currently undertaking some form of graduate training.

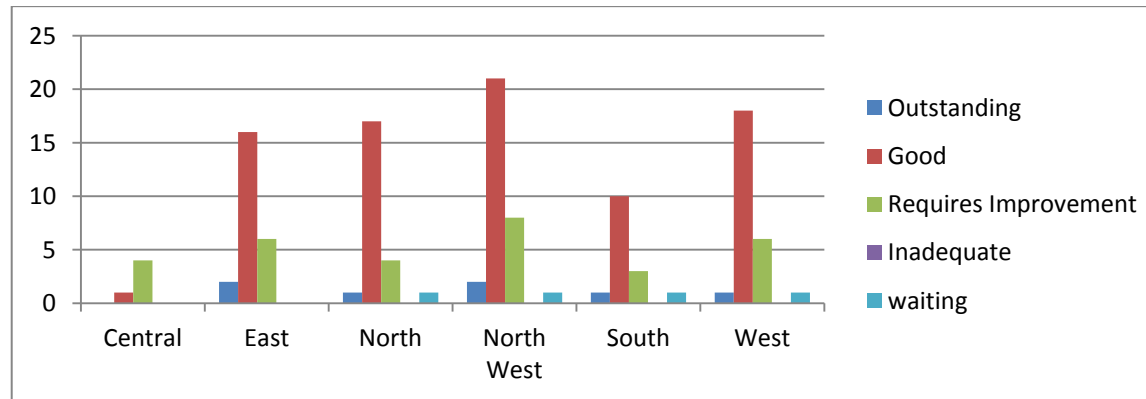
Providers have been telling us that recruitment is an ongoing issue for them, with 55% planning to recruit over the next 3-6 months (as of August 2016). In order to support providers we will explore the option to deliver a recruitment and retention workshop in the new year.

The majority of providers work closely with other professionals to ensure that they are best meeting the needs of the children and families with 82% of providers indicating that they work with a range of allied professionals such as Health Visitors, Special Needs Teaching Service, Childrens Centre Teachers and many others.

### *Childminders*

There are 125 childminders registered on the early years register operating in the city currently. Of these 7 have been judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, 83 'Good' or equivalent, 31 'Requires Improvement' or equivalent, and 0 'Inadequate'. There are also 4 childminders awaiting their first inspection.

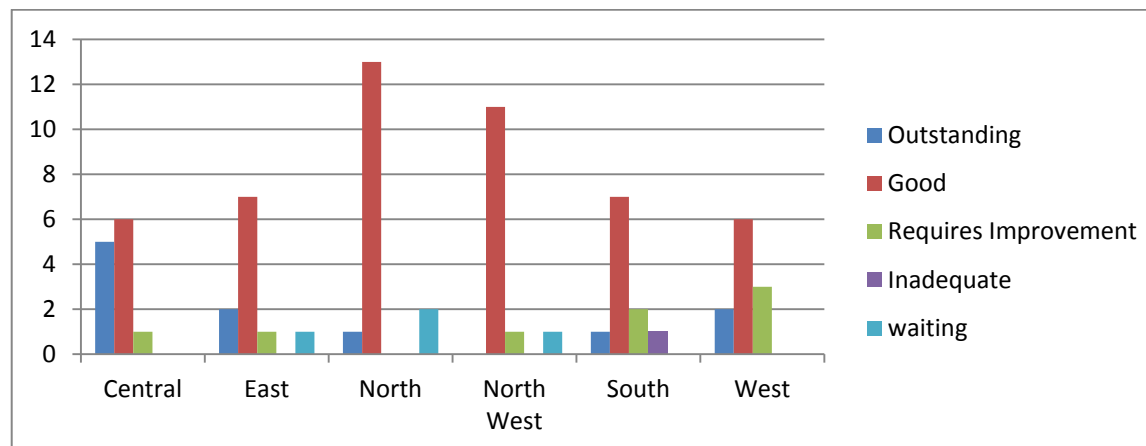
In terms of percentages this equates to 72% that have been judged as 'Good' or above.



### Primary Early Years

There are 74 schools across the city providing nursery and/or reception class places. Of these, 11 have been judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, 50 'Good', 8 'Requires improvement' and 1 'Inadequate'. There are also 4 schools waiting for their first inspection.

In terms of percentages this equates to 82% have been judged to be 'Good' or above.



The specialist provision for children under 5 years old with SEND has been judged as ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and of the 3 special schools which are registered for children aged 4 and over, 1 has been judged as ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and 2 as ‘Good’.

Overall there are 332 early years providers in the city and 265 of these have been rated as ‘Good’ or above which equates to 80% of the provision in the city. When we last undertook the childcare sufficiency assessment in 2014 the figure was at 64%, and so this shows an increase of 16% overall.

***How many places are available for children?***

For this section we have looked at the Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers, Childminders registered to deliver funded places and Primary Schools providing nursery and/or reception class places. Across the city there are a total of 19,456 places for children aged from 2 years up to statutory school age. These places, other than school reception class places, have been measured on a part-time equivalent basis to align with the current entitlement for funded childcare (see below). The 19,456 places can be broken down into the numbers of places delivered per provider type and the age range as shown in the table below. Full day care providers and childminders will also have additional capacity for children aged 0-2 years dependant on demand.

Provider type	2-3 years	3-5 years
Full day care	2943	4945
Sessional care	764	1235
childminder	194 funded children	217 funded children
Primary early years	NA	8417
Independent school	71	670

*Places for children eligible to receive the Funded Early Education Entitlement:*

The Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) relates to eligible children aged 2 years and all children aged 3 and 4 years. There will be an extended entitlement for some eligible children aged 3 and 4 from September 2017.

Children are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare per week over 38 weeks per year. This equates to 570 hours per year and can be taken flexibly over more than 38 weeks per year if desired, often referred to as the 'stretched' offer.

	Central				East			North				North West			South				West		Total	
	Castle	Spiney Hills	Stoneygate	Wycliffe	Evington	Humberstone and Hamilton	Thurmcourt	Belgrave	North Evington	Rushley Mead	Troon	Abbey	Beaumont Leys	Fosse	Aylestone	Eyres Monsell	Knighton	Saffron Fields	Braunstone Park and Rowley	Westcotes	Western	Total
2 year olds	358	90	212	234	179	78	94	305	264	34	339	118	277	64	92	112	206	131	251	348	186	3972
3- 4 year olds	1107	575	1052	1008	630	763	280	1122	1092	694	600	760	856	328	400	556	756	347	965	696	897	15484
<b>Total</b>	<b>1465</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>19456</b>

*Gap in places for Funded Early Education Entitlement:*

The comparison between the number of eligible children within each age group and the number of places available shows that there are some gaps in provision across the city.

	Central				East			North				North West			South				West		
	Castle	Spiney Hills	Stoneygate	Wycliffe	Evington	Humberstone and Hamilton	Thurmcourt	Belgrave	North Evington	Rushley Mead	Troon	Abbey	Beaumont Leys	Fosse	Aylestone	Eyres Monsell	Knighton	Saffron Fields	Braunstone Park and Rowley	Westcotes	Western
2 year olds	319>	15<	61>	36>	65>	83<	19>	184>	48>	57<	230>	50<	119>	84<	32>	2>	168>	3>	69>	278>	21<
3- 4 year olds	824>	118>	349>	358>	129>	14>	37<	627>	387>	281>	179>	84>	148>	197<	28>	118>	407>	42<	137>	339>	104>



In terms of priorities for the development of more places in the immediate future, we would be looking to start with the areas that have the largest shortfall of places. According to the current assessment, development of places for eligible 2 year olds needs to be supported in the Fosse ward. There is also a potential lack of places for children living in the Humberstone and Hamilton ward. However, there is a large provider on the edge of Troon ward that delivers mainly to children living in Humberstone and Hamilton ward. Due to the large number of places the Troon ward has in excess and the number of places delivered by the provider this would negate the need to develop new places in this area. Although Spinney Hills ward and the Western ward have a relatively small deficit of places for 2 year olds, these wards would be considered as having sufficient places owing to the lower take up rates for this age group in comparison to older age groups.

The assessment also clearly shows a shortfall of places for 3 and 4 year olds in the Fosse ward. This has been an ongoing issue for us due to the lack of buildings in the area that would be suitable for development into childcare. Whilst the assessment shows a lack of provision it should be noted that there are also a number of providers in neighbouring wards that families living in this ward currently use to access their provision as they are still within walking distance.

Overall across the city there are sufficiency places for children to be able to access provision within a reasonable distance from their house.

### ***How much does childcare cost?***

As we are currently updating our Family Information Directory to include prices for all providers we do not have the whole picture at the moment. Therefore, we have assessed the range of childcare costs for the city, rather than give a ward or cluster breakdown on costs.

	Per Hour	Per Session		Per Day	Per Week
		3 hour Session	Half Day		
<b>Average</b>	£ 5.35	£ 10.96	£ 26.71	£ 40.79	£ 185.21
<b>Most frequent amount (Mode)</b>	£ 5.00	£ 15.00	£ 25.00	£ 40.00	£ 175.00
<b>Lowest</b>	£ 2.25	£ 5.30	£ 20.00	£ 19.00	£ 120.00
<b>Highest</b>	£ 10.00	£ 16.17	£ 45.00	£ 65.00	£ 240.00

Since the last assessment we undertook in 2014 the average costs have increased, as would be expected. Costs of childcare in Leicester remain lower than the regional average for East Midlands and also lower than the national average.

The DfE have been undertaking a consultation on the funding levels for 3 and 4 year olds that access funded places and this may have an impact on the future costs of childcare for families, alongside the introduction of the extended entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year olds.

Childcare costs can be supplemented for families using the childcare element of the Working Tax Credits. Eligible families can claim up to 70% of their childcare costs to a maximum of £175/ £300 per week equating to a benefit of £122.50 for one child and £210 for two or more children.

We do not have any local data on the numbers of families currently using this benefit to supplement their childcare costs. As we recognise that this is an important tool for us to assess affordability we will be including this question in parental consultations planned for 2017. We will need to monitor the use of this benefit as the Tax Credit system continues to merge with the Universal Credit.

### ***What do local families think?***

As part of the assessment process we have undertaken a survey to elicit the views of families living across the city (see appendix 1 for details of the survey questions and responses). We used an online survey and had the link on the LCC website, as well as our own internal systems and within all the Children's Centres. There were also paper copies of the survey available for anyone that preferred to complete them this way.

The survey had a limited response so this has meant that we are unable to provide this data at a ward level on this occasion.

Within the survey families have reported some demand for flexible childcare – either out of the usual hours, weekends, out of school or during holiday periods. Flexible childcare is available in all areas of the city although some have limited access to this type of provision. There is very limited demand for provision of childcare over weekends or out of the usual hours, and generally this can be found through local childminders. We recognise that levels of childminders across the city can be variable and that there is one cluster area that has very low numbers.

Until we have more detailed information from local families about demand levels we will not be able to predict future demand and match sufficiency information for schools alongside sufficiency for the early years. We have already started to work with colleagues within the local authority to plan a longer survey to start in January 2017 so that we can evaluate levels of demand and gaps effectively especially in light of the introduction of the extended entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in September 2017.

## ***Do we need to improve anything?***

### ***1. Numbers of children:***

We have produced this assessment using ward and cluster level information as this is what is required when providing information to the Department for Education. However, we recognise that these boundaries can shift and this does not help us plan for future childcare needs using population and birth data. We can produce the assessment using a range of other strategic areas for example Medium Super Output Areas (MSOA's) or Leicester City's School Sufficiency Assessment tool.

*Action: Ensure that the ongoing reviews for the assessment are produced in a range of different strategic areas to compare and contrast sufficiency and ensure that families can access a choice of provision within a reasonable distance.*

*Action: explore sources of more accurate data for population figures to ensure that measurements in the assessment are accurate and meaningful.*

### ***2. Types of childcare:***

Whilst we have a range of childcare provision across the city there are inevitably areas that have less choice than others. The area that has stood out over this assessment is the Central cluster in terms of childminders. There are very few childminders across each ward in this area, with Spinney Hills having none. Provision of good levels of childminders will be essential in planning for flexible childcare and for the new extended entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year olds.

*Action: Work with colleagues within the local authority, as well as in the private and voluntary sector, to support the development of childminder provision with particular regard for the wards in the Central Cluster.*

The other key gap in terms of provider type is the out of school provision. Whilst we understand from anecdotal evidence from families that there is a demand for out of school provision in many areas of the city, conversely the market tells us that they do not see that demand and so are unwilling to invest in this area of provision. Again we hear anecdotal evidence to show that where this type of provision is available through the private market, families are unwilling to pay the associated costs.

*Action: Use the planned public survey to gain a better understanding of the demand for this type of provision and what the possible barriers are for this.*

### **3. Quality of provision:**

The general trajectory of travel with regards to quality of early years provision across the city has been to move further towards the 'Good' and 'Outstanding' judgements over the last few years. This shows that all providers are working hard to ensure that they are improving the quality of their provision and are accessing support to enable them to embed this into their daily practice. Leicester City Council offers a range of support to providers through various teams.

*Action: Continue to offer the support using a range of methods that meet the needs of the market and represent a good use of resources.*

### **4. Number of places:**

Overall there are sufficient places for children across the city, but the detailed analysis shows that this does not mean there are enough places in all areas of the city. We do know that there will be a percentage of families that access their childcare outside of the area in which they live. This can have a positive impact in terms of reducing pressure in areas where there are not enough places but occasionally this can be reversed and add pressure to an already difficult situation.

The analysis shows clearly that there is a deficit of places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in the Fosse ward and so this continues to be the priority for the Childcare Sufficiency Team in terms of supporting the market to fill this gap.

There are some wards that have smaller numbers of places that need to be developed. The local childminder market could easily bridge this gap as there are numbers in most areas that are not registered to deliver funded places for early years.

*Action: Use the information in the gap analysis, and additional information once the parental survey is complete, to prioritise areas for development. Update this information termly so that the Market Position Statement is up to date for providers to be able to see which areas of the city need additional childcare provision.*

*Action: Support local childminders to bridge the gaps where there are small numbers of places needing to be developed.*

### **5. Cost of childcare:**

The recent consultation on funding levels for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds will hopefully mean that the market in Leicester City will see a general increase in funding levels for this service. This may have a knock-on effect for some providers that are not profit-making that

they may reduce the costs of their additional childcare provision. We are not able to influence charging for childcare but we do offer providers the opportunity to see what other providers are charging, as well as families to check the costs of childcare local to them, using the Family Information Directory.

*Action: Work with providers to ensure that the costs shared on the directory are kept up to date.*

Many families can access additional support for childcare costs using the Working Families Tax credit system and also Childcare Vouchers. To ensure that we have the best picture of the cost of childcare across the city it would be useful to assess the numbers of families using these benefits.

*Action: Work with appropriate teams across the local authority to assess access to relevant supporting benefits and schemes and monitor levels.*

#### **6. Demand for childcare:**

Assessing demand for various childcare types is essential in planning sustainability of the market. In order to do this we will need to regularly survey local families to find out what their childcare needs are and, if possible, predict future demand. The survey systems that we have used over the last 2 sufficiency assessments have not given us many responses and so we will need to consider better methods of surveying families in the future.

*Action: Work with colleagues in our marketing and communications teams to analyse various survey methods to find a range of methods that will elicit responses from as many families as possible, particularly from families that may not always take up the childcare that they are eligible for.*

## Leicester City Early Years Market Position Statement autumn 2016

This document sets out the priorities for supporting the early years market and development of sufficient childcare places across Leicester City, in line with the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016.

All existing and potential providers are invited to work with the local authority by expanding current provision or developing new provision in areas of high need.

Leicester City Council will:

- Use the current communication methods for existing providers to keep them up to date and informed of areas that may need additional development of childcare provision. (provider network meetings and provider newsletters)
- Update the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment termly with information on availability of places and demand to highlight priority areas for childcare development.
- Provide links to and direct business support to enable new and existing providers to ensure sustainability.
- Use a fair and transparent tender process where the local authority is in a position to tender for new childcare business opportunities.

Priority areas for development of new places for early years provision				
Cluster area	Ward	Childcare type	Age range	Information
Central	Spinney Hills	Childminder	All age ranges	New childminders required
All areas	All wards	Out of school care	5-19 years	More details once the parental survey is completed in early 2017
North West	Fosse	Sessional or full day care	2, 3 and 4 year FEEE	New childcare provision required
East	Thurncourt	Childminder	3-4 year old FEEE	Additional places required
North	Rushey Mead	Sessional care	2 year FEEE	Development of new places required
North West	Abbey	Sessional care	2 year FEEE	Development of new places required
South	Saffron	Sessional care	3-4 year FEEE	Development of new places required
West	Western	Sessional care	2 year FEEE	Additional places required



To access advice and guidance on this market position statement please contact Leicester City Council Childcare Strategy team:

Email [childcare-strategy-team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:childcare-strategy-team@leicester.gov.uk)

Phone: 0116 4541166

**Data sources:**

Population data: E-Start (2015)

SEND: One system report and headcount cross referencing

Provider figures: internal registered provider list

Childcare costs: Family Information Directory/ My Choice/ Provider web sites.

Quality information: Ofsted website (September 2016)