

Early Learning and Childcare Service

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 -2024

Full Report



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Jo Fisher

Childcare Sufficiency and Development Team Manager
Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service

Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Email childcare@leics.gov.uk

Produced by the Strategic Business Intelligence Team at Leicestershire County Council.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this report, Leicestershire County Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omission relating to the data contained within the report.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Executive Summary

Leicestershire County Council is required by law to report to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient (enough) childcare places and make this report available and accessible to parents. We have prepared this to meet this duty.¹ To secure sufficient childcare, so far as 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).

Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority. In this report, we have assessed sufficiency in Leicestershire using information about the demand for childcare and the amount of childcare available. This was achieved by creating two new surveys that were carried out in 2022, a new parent feedback survey that asked parents/carers for their views on Out of School childcare provision and a provider feedback survey that asked providers of Out of School childcare for their views. Both surveys were created to assess the existing childcare provision in Leicestershire and help influence the quality and availability of future provision.

The information gathered from our childcare sufficiency assessment enables the service to plan the work required to support the local childcare market.

Here are the results from the [Parent/Carer Survey 2022](#).

Here are the results from the [Provider Survey 2022](#).

It is important to note that Leicestershire County Council does not directly provide childcare but has a statutory duty to support providers. The Early Learning and Childcare Service support new and existing childcare providers to improve outcomes for children. Information on the support offered providers from the local authority is available on the Leicestershire County Council website along with its Market Position Statement.²

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Key Findings

Sufficiency

- Overall Leicestershire has sufficient childcare places.
- Sufficiency of childcare place varies across Leicestershire, with certain areas in the North West being insufficient.
- Leicestershire has sufficient Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places for children aged 2, 3 and 4.
- Leicestershire has insufficient out of school (OOS) childcare and holiday care for all school age children.
- Local variation across Leicestershire indicates several areas that are insufficient in registered childcare. These are Green hill and Charley, Great Easton, Tilton and Hungarton. These areas are characterised by very low supply of OOS or holiday clubs.
- All parents/carers (100%) that do not have children with SEND said they are able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare
- 56% of parents/carers that do have children with SEND said they are able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare

Quality

- 96% of Early Years (EY) childcare in Leicestershire is rated Good or Outstanding
- 95% of OOS Childcare for school aged children in Leicestershire is rated Good or Outstanding

Affordability

- 61% parents/carers that do not have children with SEND agree that their out of school childcare is good value for money
- 77% parents/carers with children with SEND agree that their out of school childcare is good value for money
- Parents/carers who disagree that their out of school childcare is good value for money said that the price is too expensive
- Parents/carers mentioned that they would like to have financial help and more affordable childcare as additional support

Satisfaction

- 72% of parents/carers that do not have children with SEND said they are happy with their provider's opening hours
- 44% of parents/carers that have children with SEND said they are happy with their providers opening hours
- 84% of parents/carers that do not have children with SEND agree that their current out of school childcare meets their working pattern needs
- 44% of parents/carers that have children with SEND agree that their current out of school childcare meets their working pattern needs

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

- 50% of parents/carers that have children with SEND agree that the out of school club they use meets the individual SEND needs of their child

Provider survey – Key findings

Staffing

- 83% of providers feel that they currently have enough staff
- 87% of providers do not have any issues retaining staff
- 47% of providers said no members of staff have left in the last 12 months
- 43% of providers have tried to recruit new staff in the last 12 months, of these providers 62% have not actually managed to recruit new staff

Opening times

- 68% of providers would not be able to extend their opening times to meet parental working patterns. Of these providers, 16% mentioned availability of property and 13% mentioned rent cost as being a barrier that prevented them from expanding to offer extended hours or holiday care

Waiting list

- 47% of providers currently have a waiting list. Of these providers, 28% said they have more than 10 children that are on the waiting list to join their out of school provision.

Advertising provision

- Word of mouth was mentioned by most providers as a way of advertising their out of school provision. Providers also use social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram to advertise.

Inclusive provision

- 93% of providers do not promote their out of school childcare on the Local Offer. Providers mentioned not being aware of the Local Offer as reasons for not promoting their provision
- 53% of providers have not completed the SEND report
- 71% of providers said their out of school provision is accessible for children with SEND/additional needs
- 68% providers said they currently have children with SEND that are accessing their provision
- 93% of providers are confident in supporting children with SEND

Training

- 22% of providers said they would like training in SEND
- 15% of providers said they would like training for learning through play, outdoor curriculum and safeguarding
- 13% of providers would like first aid training
- 45% of providers said they would like training to be delivered face-to-face

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
KEY FINDINGS	4
CONTENTS	6
INTRODUCTION	11
REPORT AIMS	12
EARLY YEARS (EY) CHILDCARE	12
FREE EARLY EDUCATIONAL ENTITLEMENT (FEEE)	12
DEMAND AND TAKE-UP OF EY CHILDCARE	13
SUPPLY OF EY CHILDCARE	15
SUFFICIENCY OF EY CHILDCARE IN LEICESTERSHIRE	16
SUFFICIENCY OF EY CHILDCARE AT A LOCAL LEVEL	17
SEND AND LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL OFFER FOR EARLY YEARS	19
QUALITY OF EARLY YEARS CHILDCARE	20
OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE	21
SUFFICIENCY OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE IN LEICESTERSHIRE	21
CHILDCARE FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN WITH SEND	22
SUFFICIENCY OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE AT A LOCAL LEVEL	22
QUALITY OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE	23
AFFORDABILITY OF LOCAL CHILDCARE	24
FREE EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT (FEEE)	24
COSTS OF CHILDCARE	25
OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY 2022	27
WHO IS CURRENTLY USING OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE?	27
WHAT TYPE OF OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION IS CURRENTLY USED?	27
WHO IS PLANNING TO USE OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE?	28
WHERE IS THE OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB LOCATED?	28
WHEN IS OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE USED?	29
WHEN IS OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE PLANNING TO BE USED?	30
ARE PARENTS ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR PREFERRED CHOICE OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE?	30
IS CURRENT OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE PROVISION MEETING PARENTS/CARERS WORKING PATTERN NEEDS?	31
WHAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DO PARENTS/CARERS NEED TO HELP FIND CHILDCARE THAT MEETS THEIR NEEDS?	32
ARE PARENTS HAPPY WITH THE OPENING HOURS OF THEIR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE PROVISION?	32
HAS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHANGED HOW PARENTS USE OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE?	33
DOES THE OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB MEET THE INDIVIDUAL SEND NEEDS OF CHILDREN?	33
IS OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDCARE GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY?	34
OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION PROVIDER FEEDBACK SURVEY 2022	35
LOCATION OF OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION	35
STAFFING	35
OPENING TIMES	38
WAITING LIST	40
ADVERTISING PROVISION	40
INCLUSIVE PROVISION	40
PARTNERSHIP WORKING	45
TRAINING	45
SUSTAINABILITY	47

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

METHODOLOGY	48
ACTIONS	50
GLOSSARY OF TERMS.....	52
REFERENCES.....	53

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

List of tables

Table 1: Demand and Take-up of EY childcare in Leicestershire, April 2022	14
Table 2 :Number of FEEE hours accessed by parents in Leicestershire, April 2022	15
Table 3: Number of Early Years providers in Leicestershire, April 2022	15
Table 4: Number of EY childcare places in Leicestershire by care scheme in Leicestershire, April 2022	16
Table 5 : Number of Early Years and FEEE children per childcare place in Leicestershire, April 2022	16
Table 6: Number and percentage of EY providers with an OFSTED rating in Leicestershire, April 2022 (includes all care schemes with a valid ofsted rating).	20
Table 7: Supply and demand for childcare for school age children in Leicestershire, April 2022	21
Table 8: Number and percentage of out of school registered childcare providers with an OFSTED rating in Leicestershire, April 2022. (includes all careschemes with a valid ofsted rating).	24
Table 9: Minimum, maximum and average charges of care schemes per hour within Leicestershire, April 2022	25
Table 10: Minimum, maximum and average charges of care schemes per day within Leicestershire, April 2022	26

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

List of Figures

Figure 1: Sufficiency of Early Years Childcare (0 - 4) across Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA).....	18
Figure 2: Sufficiency of Free Early Education (FEEE) for 3 - 4 year olds in Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)	19
Figure 3: Percentage of EY care schemes rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding', April 2022.	20
Figure 4: Sufficiency of Out of School Childcare in Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)	23
Figure 5: Percentage of registered school aged care schemes rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding', April 2022.	24
Figure 6: Boxplot showing the variability in hourly childcare costs by provider type.....	25
Figure 7: Boxplot showing the variability in daily childcare costs by provider type	26
Figure 8: Percentage of parents/carers surveyed with children with SEND	27
Figure 9: Percentage of parents/carers who use out of school childcare.....	27
Figure 10: Percentage of the type of out of school provision currently used by parents/carers	28
Figure 11: Percentage of the type of out of school childcare parents/carers are planning on using out of school childcare	28
Figure 12: Percentage of the location of out of school clubs parents/carers plan on using...	29
Figure 13: Percentage of the location of out of school clubs parents/carers currently use ...	29
Figure 14: Percentage of the timings parents/carers currently use of out of school childcare	30
Figure 15: Timing's parents/carers plan on using out of school childcare	30
Figure 16: Percentage of parents/carers able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare	31
Figure 17: Out of school childcare meeting parent's/carer's working pattern needs	31
Figure 18: Preferred timings of out of school childcare	32
Figure 19: Usage of out of school childcare since the pandemic	33
Figure 20: Out of school club meeting SEND needs of children	34
Figure 21: Out of school childcare being good value for money.....	34
Figure 22: Percentage of locations of out of school provision	35
Figure 23: Percentage of staff providers currently have	36
Figure 24: Percentages of providers feeling that they have enough staff	36
Figure 25: Percentage of providers that have issues retaining staff	36
Figure 26: Percentage of staff that have left in the last 12 months.....	37
Figure 27: Percentage of providers that have tried to recruit new staff in the last 12 months	37
Figure 28: Percentage of providers managing to recruit new staff in the last 12 months	38
Figure 29: Percentage of staff recruited by providers in the last 12 months.....	38
Figure 30: Percentage of providers able to extend their opening times.....	38
Figure 31: Percentage of providers able to open at different times.....	39
Figure 32: Barriers that prevent providers from expanding (multiple choice)	39
Figure 33: Percentage of providers that currently have a waiting list	40
Figure 34: Percentage of children on providers' waiting list.....	40
Figure 35: Percentage of providers who promote on the Local Offer	41
Figure 36: Percentage of providers that have completed the SEND report.....	41

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 37: Percentage of providers that are accessible for children with SEND/additional needs.....	42
Figure 38: Percentage of providers that have children with SEND/additional needs accessing their provision.....	42
Figure 39: Percentage of the number of children with SEND/additional needs accessing provision.....	43
Figure 40: Confidence of staff in supporting children with SEND/additional needs.....	43
Figure 41: Percentage of providers that feel they have a good working relationship with school for transitions to out of school provision.....	44
Figure 42: Increase or decrease in the number of children/hours spent using out of school provision since the start of the pandemic.....	45
Figure 43: Percentage of the types of training providers would like to be offered.....	46
Figure 44: Percentage of the preference of future learning (multiple choice).....	46
Figure 45: Percentage of preferred days/timings providers would like training to be delivered.....	47
Figure 46: Likelihood of providers to change their business model to remain viable.....	47

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 (section 6) places a duty on all local authorities 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 years (or up to 18 years for disabled children).¹

Section 7 (as substituted by Section 1 of the Education Act 2011) requires local authorities to secure 570 hours a year of early years education free of charge (FEEE) to eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds. The Childcare Act 2016 extends the universal entitlement for free early education for 3- and 4-year-olds to a total of 1,140 hours a year for eligible working parents. Sections 5 and 12 place a duty on local authorities to secure this extended entitlement for qualifying children and requires them to publish information on where provision can be taken.

As part of these duties local authorities should report annually to elected council members on how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare in their area, both for free early education (FEEE) for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and childcare for all children for those parents able and willing to pay. The report should also be publicised and made available to parents and public in a variety of formats.

In 2022, the Strategic Business Intelligence Team was Commissioned by Leicestershire County Council Early Learning and Childcare Service to examine childcare sufficiency in Leicestershire. Two approaches were taken which include modelling childcare sufficiency from childcare funding data held by the authority and consultation with families, and providers of Out of School childcare accessing Out of School childcare in Leicestershire. This report will show the results for 2022. Reports for 2020/2021 were not produced due to the pandemic affecting the availability of childcare take up and provision.

Leicestershire County Council's Early Learning and Childcare Service have assumed responsibility for keeping the sufficiency assessment updated and for preparing and publishing the County's assessment reports.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Report Aims

The purpose of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is to meet the statutory duty under sections 6, and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 in line with the local authority statutory guidance.¹

The assessment will include information about:

- Supply demand and sufficiency of childcare, affordability, accessibility, and quality of childcare provision.
- Details of how any gaps or issues in childcare provision will be addressed.
- How the local authority is ensuring there is sufficient childcare to meet needs.

Early Years (EY) Childcare

Early Years childcare is childcare for children who are pre-school age and predominantly this is 0 - 4 years of age. The main childcare providers for Early Years children are Day Nurseries, Childminders and Pre-Schools.

Free Early Educational Entitlement (FEEE)

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 school.
- 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 (for example their child receives Disability Living Allowance), are entitled to 15 hours per week. You can find out if your child is eligible by visiting childcarechoices.gov.uk. 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 childcare 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.

Providers who offer FEEE must offer high quality provision (service). Therefore, providers who offer FEEE should have an Ofsted inspection grade of Good or Outstanding. Those

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

providers who have not had an Ofsted inspection or have a Met outcome are categorised as being Good, enabling them to offer FEEE.

Providers in Leicestershire have access to training on a range of courses to support children in their setting with SEND. There is also additional inclusion funding enabling providers to meet the individual needs of the children in their setting. Parents can use the information on the Local Offer to help find childcare that meets their child's needs. The [Family Information Page](#) can be found on Leicestershire County Council's website.

Demand and Take-up of EY childcare

Demand for childcare for children aged 0 - 4

There are approximately 34,339 children under 5 living in Leicestershire in 2022 (Table 1: Demand and Take-up of EY childcare in Leicestershire, April 2022 Table 1). Not every child requires formal childcare due to maternity and paternity leave, parents choosing not to work or parents choosing to work part time in order to look after their children. The estimated proportion of parents requiring childcare has been applied to the population data to estimate the actual number requiring childcare. It is therefore estimated that 17,433 of children aged 0 - 4 require childcare in Leicestershire.

Demand for FEEE

It is estimated that 11,458 of children in Leicestershire are entitled to Free Early Educational Entitlement (FEEE), (Table 1). This includes 1619, 2-year-olds living in low-income families. These families are identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) as potential families on low incomes that may be entitled to FEEE.

Take-up of FEEE by 3- and 4-year-olds

The number of children accessing a FEEE place in Leicestershire during the spring term 2022. (Jan-March 2022) was 10,940. About 95% of children aged 3 - 4 entitled to FEEE took up a FEEE place. This is higher than the Department for Education's latest figures which indicate that within England 92% of 3- and 4-year-old children take up FEEE.⁶ This is the second-lowest take-up rate (the lowest being in 2021) since measurement began in 2011. The 2019 Consultation with parents found that 94% of parents of 3- and 4-year-olds using formal childcare were getting funding.

Take-up of FEEE by 2-year-olds

The number of 2-year-olds entitled to and taking up FEEE is 77% (Table 1). This is higher than the estimated percentage for England 72%⁶ and also an increase on the 2019 local percentage of 74%. The 2019 consultation with parents found that the main reason parents of 2-year-olds were not using formal childcare was that they thought their child was too young or that childcare was too expensive. Lone parents working less than 30 hours, two parent families where one or two parents are working less than 16 hours were more likely to claim free childcare for 2-year-olds.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Table 1: Demand and Take-up of EY childcare in Leicestershire, April 2022

Age	Number of children living in Leicestershire	Proportion requiring childcare*	Estimated number requiring childcare	Estimated number entitled to FEEE *	Children Taking-up FEEE (Spring Term 2022)	%Take-up of FEEE (Spring Term 2022)
Age 0	5,490	20%	1,098			
Age 1	4,973	30%	1,492			
Age 2	6,672	75%	5,004	1,619	1,239	77%
Age 3	6,849	100%	6,849	6,849	7,018	100%
Age 4	7,474	40%	2,990	2,990	2,683	90%
Total Age 0 - 4	34,339	-	17,433	11,458	10,940	95%

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, Capita Funding data (Term 120, Jan - April 2022); ONS population estimates (2020), Department for Work and Pensions.

Number of FEEE funded hours accessed by parents

Table 2 shows the percentage of funded hours being accessed by parents from the FEEE funding database (spring term 2022) and hours of formal childcare accessed from the consultation survey. The funding data shows that not all parents are accessing the full 15 hrs they are entitled to with 34% of 2-year-olds and 15% of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing less than 15 hours. Funding data shows that 30% of parents are accessing between 15 and 30 hours and 22% are accessing more than 30 hours.

Results from the 2019 parental consultation showed that 89% of parents could claim all the free hours they are entitled to. The main reasons for not being able to claim was not enough availability or not enough specialist places available. Looking at family composition and hours accessed two parent families where both parents work are more likely to access 30+ hours of childcare and lone parents that work 30+hours are more likely to access between 16 and 30 hours of childcare.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Table 2: Number of FEEE hours accessed by parents in Leicestershire, April 2022

	FEEE hours accessed	% of children accessing FEEE by hours (capita)
Age 2	Under 15 hrs	34%
	15hrs	66%
	15-30 hrs	n/a
	30+ hrs	n/a
		100%
Age 3 - 4	Under 15 hrs	15%
	15hrs	32%
	15-30 hrs	30%
	30+ hrs	22%
		100%

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, Capita Funding data (Term 120, Jan - April 2022); Childcare Survey, 2022

Supply of EY childcare

In total, there are 809 childcare providers in Leicestershire (Table 3). 677 of these providers offer the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) with 616 offering the 2-year-old FEEE. Table 4 shows the number of EY and FEEE places available by care scheme.

Table 3: Number of Early Years providers in Leicestershire, April 2022ⁱ

Care scheme	Number of EY childcare providers	Number of providers offering FEEE	Number of providers with 2yr old funding
Childminder	449	338	303
Day Nursery	154	147	138
Pre-School/Playgroup	206	192	175
Total EY providers	809	677	616

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, Capita provider data (Term 120, Jan - April 2022)

ⁱ Number of childcare providers and places are correct at time of data export for April 2022.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Table 4: Number of EY childcare places in Leicestershire by care scheme in Leicestershire, April 2022ⁱ

Care Scheme	Number of EY childcare places	Number of FEEE places	Number of FEEE places for 2yr olds
Childminder	2,804	2,108	1,903
Day Nursery	9,468	9,249	8,557
Pre-School/Playgroup	6,447	5,771	5,492
Total EY places	18,719	17,128	15,952

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, Capita provider data (Term 120, Jan - April 2022)

Sufficiency of EY childcare in Leicestershire

In April 2022 there were approximately 809 providers offering EY childcare with 18,719 places (Table 3 and Table 4). Using the estimated demand of 0 - 4 children requiring a childcare place there are 0.93 children per place almost a 1:1 ratio. Childcare is therefore sufficient for Early Years children across Leicestershire County. The ratios are shown below in Table 5.

Looking at FEEE there is enough childcare providing funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds with 0.67 eligible children per place. Most childcare providers are flexible, and funded places not accessed are likely to be taken up by other age groups.

Table 5 : Number of Early Years and FEEE children per childcare place in Leicestershire, April 2022

Total number of 0–4-year-olds per EY place ⁱⁱ	Estimated number of 0-4's requiring EY place ⁱⁱⁱ	Number of FEEE eligible children per FEEE place	Number of 2-year-olds per FEEE place	% of FEEE places available being used
1.83	0.93	0.67	0.1	64%
There are 1.83 0–4-year-olds per childcare place	There are 0.93 estimated 0–4-year-olds per childcare place	There are 0.67 FEEE eligible children per place	There are 0.10 2yr olds eligible for FEEE per place	64% of FEEE places available are being used

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, Capita provider data (Term 120, Jan - April 2022), ONS 2020 population estimates.

ⁱⁱ Has used the population data for Leicestershire and divided it with the number of childcare places. This shows that there are 1.83 children to every 1 childcare place.

ⁱⁱⁱ This shows the number of estimated places needed for every childcare place. We know that not every child requires a childcare place as it is parental choice as to whether a place is taken up.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Sufficiency of EY childcare at a local level

The sufficiency of childcare in Leicestershire is unlikely to be consistent across the county. An interactive dashboard has been designed to show supply, demand and sufficiency at lower levels of geography; middle super output area (MSOA)³.

The dashboard shows at MSOA level:

- Current supply of childcare as at April 2022.
- Current and future demand up to 2024.
- Sufficiency of childcare up to 2024 using the equation

$$\text{Sufficiency} = (\text{demand} / \text{current supply})$$

The tool will enable the Early Learning and Childcare Service to predict future childcare demand and help meet their statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare as detailed in the [Statutory guidance on Early education and childcare](#).

Some limitations to the model which should be taken into account are:

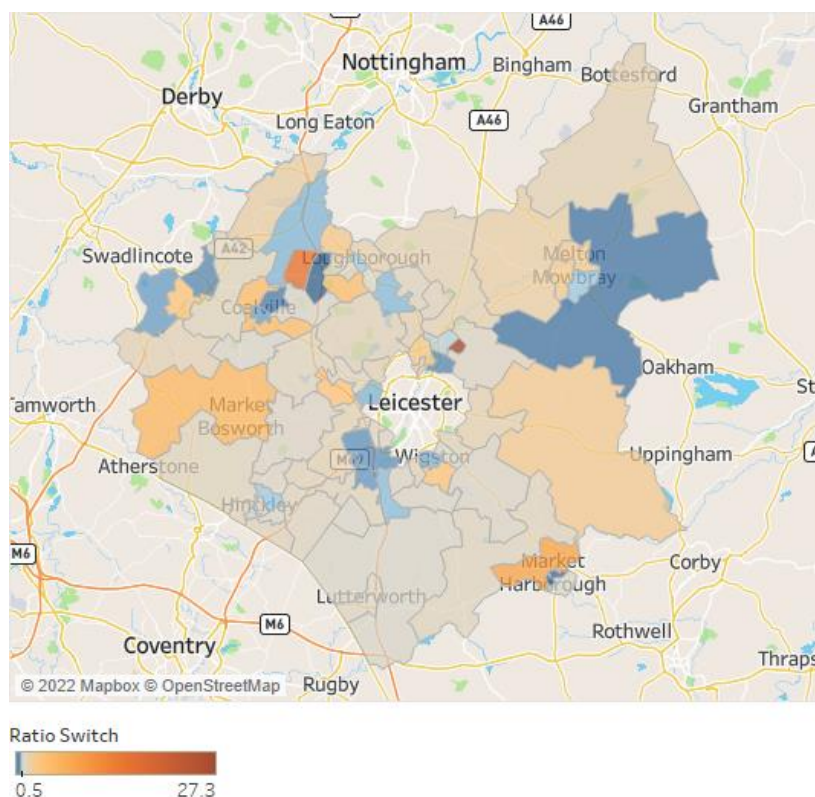
- Population estimates, and forecasting may be affected by external factors such as new housing developments.
- Future supply of childcare is unknown and subject to market forces. The sufficiency dashboard is based on the current known supply of childcare.

Sufficiency of 0 - 4 childcare at a local level

Although Early Years childcare is sufficient across Leicestershire the local picture shows that sufficiency of childcare for 0 - 4's varies across the County from 0.5 children per childcare place to 27.3 children per childcare place in some areas. Figure 1 below shows that 32 MSOA areas are insufficient in age groups 0-4. The areas of most concern are Syston East which has 27 children for every place available and Shepshed West which has 15 children for every place available.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 1: Sufficiency of Early Years Childcare (0 - 4) across Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)



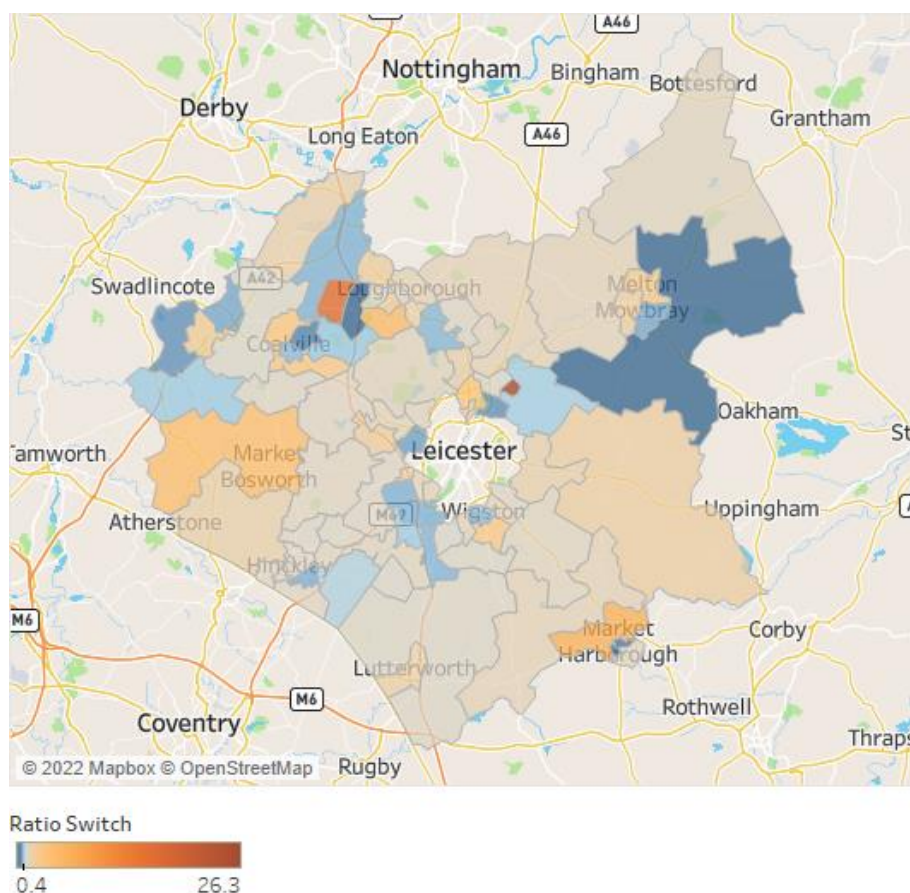
More information can be found on an [interactive dashboard](#) on the Supply, Demand and Sufficiency of Early Years Childcare.

Sufficiency of FEEE at a local level

Sufficiency of childcare for children aged 3 - 4 and entitled to FEEE is shown in Figure 2 below. Sufficiency ranges from 0.4 children per childcare place to 26.3 children per childcare place. There are two areas in Leicestershire where demand is significantly higher than places available: Syston East and Shepshed West. Other areas where the demand is high includes Great Bowden, Lubenham, Loughborough Outwoods, Market Bosworth, Barlestone and Twycross. As nearby areas have just enough sufficiency, there may be a shortage of childcare in these areas.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 2: Sufficiency of Free Early Education (FEEE) for 3 - 4-year-olds in Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)



More information can be found on an [interactive dashboard](#) on the Supply, Demand and Sufficiency of Free Early Education (FEEE).

SEND and Leicestershire Local offer for Early Years

The Leicestershire Local Offer gives children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their families information about help and services in Leicestershire.⁴ All registered providers should provide information and / or support in relation to SEND. The number of children aged 2 - 4 accessing FEEE during the spring term 2019. (Jan-March 2019) who were flagged as SEND was 78. Inclusion funding is funding for to help providers support the needs of children with SEND or additional needs in their setting. There were 289 early years children allocated Inclusion funding in April 2022. Of these 50 were two-year-olds.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Quality of Early Years childcare

Ofsted inspection grades

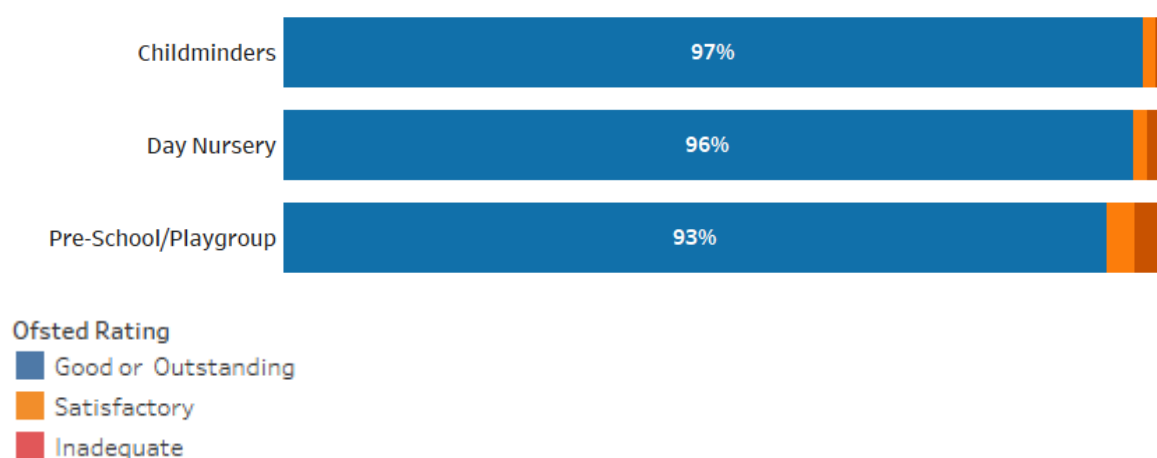
All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders, private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, offering childcare to children under 5. Early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: ‘outstanding’, ‘good’, ‘requires improvement’, and ‘inadequate’. Early Years providers who have an Ofsted inspection grade of “Met” are still classed as good as they are meeting all the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework which sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. Providers who are still awaiting their first full inspection will have no Ofsted rating.

Table 6: Number and percentage of EY providers with an OFSTED rating in Leicestershire, April 2022 (includes all care schemes with a valid Ofsted rating).^{vi}

	Childminders	Day nurseries	Pre-School/ Playgroup
Outstanding	34 (11.4%)	22 (18.3%)	19 (12.3%)
Good	256 (85.6%)	93 (77.5%)	124 (80.5%)
Requires Improvement	4 (1.3%)	2 (1.7%)	5 (3.2%)
Inadequate	5 (1.7%)	3 (2.5%)	6 (3.9%)

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, OFSTED ratings, April 2022.

Figure 3: Percentage of EY care schemes rated ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’, April 2022. ^{vi}



Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, OFSTED ratings, April 2022.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Out of School Childcare

Sufficiency of out of school childcare in Leicestershire

Out of school childcare is for school aged children up to 14 years old or 18 years old with SEND. Table 7 shows the number of childcare places and providers registered with Ofsted on the **Compulsory Childcare Register**. Providers who care for children over the age of 5 years and up to the age of 8 years for more than 2 hours in any one day will be on this register. There are other provisions that offer out of school activities which are localised that the Local Authority have no record of as there is no requirement for them to register.

Although the number of out of school childcare places is less than the number of 5 - 14-year-olds in Leicestershire, not every child requires formal childcare. Parents may choose not to work or may work part time to look after their children. As children get older the need for formal childcare may reduce as children become more independent. In addition to formal childcare, many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs, art clubs etc. Although these may not be formally classed as childcare, they still provide a safe and fun environment for children whilst parents/ carers are at work. These types of clubs may not operate consistently throughout the school year and are often only an hour in duration.

Parents do have the right to request that the school their children attend considers out of school and holiday childcare. Childcare providers have the right to request to use the school facilities for out of school and holiday care (please see [DfE wraparound and holiday childcare: Parent and childcare providers 'rights to request', May 2016](#)).

Table 7: Supply and demand for childcare for school age children (5-14) in Leicestershire, April 2022

	Care scheme Type	Number of registered childcare providers ^{iv}	Number of places Error! Bookmark not defined.	Population of 5-14-year-olds	Number per childcare place	Estimated number requiring childcare (35%)	Estimated Number requiring childcare per place
Term time	Out of School Care	166	4,732	83,054	17.6	29,069	6.1
	Childminders (not offering FEEE)	108	692	83,054	120.0	29,069	42.0
	Total out of school childcare	274	5424	83,054	15.3	29,069	5.4
Holidays	Holiday Clubs	91	3,353	83,054	24.8	29,069	8.7

Number of registered 'out of school' childcare providers and places are correct at time of data export for April 2022.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Childcare for school aged children with SEND

Legislation stipulates that childcare must be available for young people with special needs or disabilities up to the age of 18. School children who have a special educational need or disability and have been assessed by their local authority or school will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place. In the spring term 2022 there were 1285 children with an EHCP in Leicestershire primary schools, 1006 in secondary schools and 1626 in special schools.⁵ Some of these children will require childcare. As part of the Local Offer Leicestershire County Council provides [information and advice](#) on choosing childcare for a child with SEND on its website.

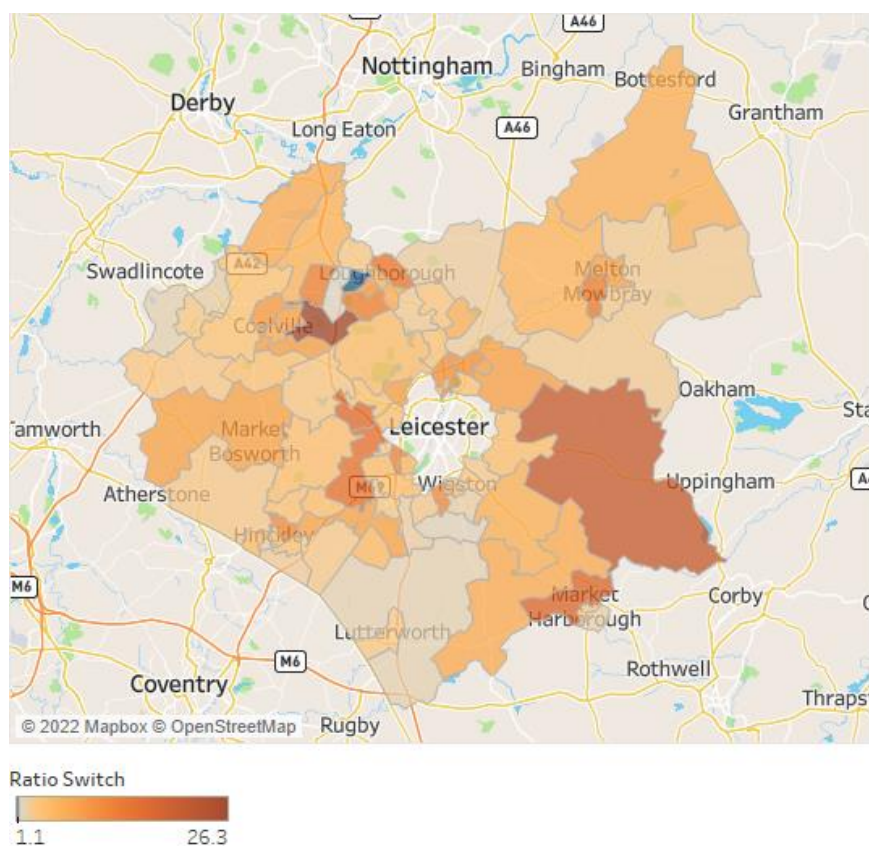
Sufficiency of out of school childcare at a local level

Figure 4 shows the variation in Out of School Childcare across Leicestershire. There are several areas that are very insufficient in registered childcare. These areas are characterised by very low supply for out of school or holiday club places. Top two areas with the lowest sufficiency are “Greenhill and Charley”, and “Great Easton, Tilton and Hungarton”. Of concern is the “Greenhill and Charley” area which contains some of the most deprived areas in Leicestershire. In contrast “Great Easton, Tilton and Hungarton” is a more affluent area but is also very rural making transport more difficult (i.e. no bus links).

Other areas with low sufficiency are Great Bowden, Lubenham, Ratby and Groby West, Kirby Muxloe and Loughborough North.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 4: Sufficiency of Out of School Childcare in Leicestershire by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA)



More information can be found on an [interactive dashboard](#) on the Supply, Demand and Sufficiency of Out of School Childcare.

Quality of out of school childcare Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers for under eights must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Providers have four possible Ofsted grades: ‘outstanding’, ‘good’, ‘requires improvement’, and ‘inadequate’. Providers who have an Ofsted inspection grade of “Met” are still classed as good as they are meeting all the welfare requirements. Providers who are still awaiting their first full inspection will have no Ofsted rating. From September 2019 there has been a new Ofsted Inspection Framework in place and providers who only provide childcare at the beginning or end of the school day or in holiday periods will be inspected without receiving grades against the four Ofsted judgement areas of the framework, though will still need to meet in full the safeguarding and welfare requirements. An inspection for these providers will result in one of three possible outcomes: met, not met with actions or not met with enforcement.

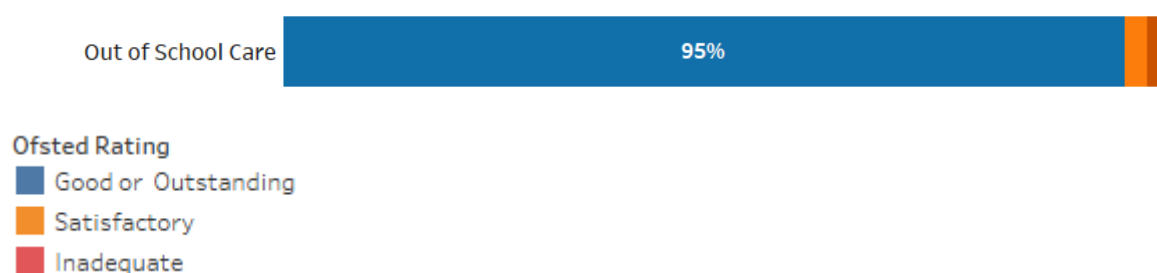
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Table 8: Number and percentage of out of school registered childcare providers with an OFSTED rating in Leicestershire, April 2022. (includes all care schemes with a valid Ofsted rating). Error! Bookmark not defined.

	Number of providers	% of providers
Outstanding	12	15%
Good	62	79%
Requires Improvement	2	3%
Inadequate	2	3%

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, OFSTED ratings, April 2022.

Figure 5: Percentage of registered school aged care schemes rated ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’, April 2022. Error! Bookmark not defined.



Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, OFSTED ratings, April 2022.

Affordability of local childcare

Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)

Providers are paid for delivering the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) by the local authority from government funding. They are not required to offer the hours to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

For Early Years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we record average prices per hour or day, reported to us by settings. There may be variations in prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Costs of childcare

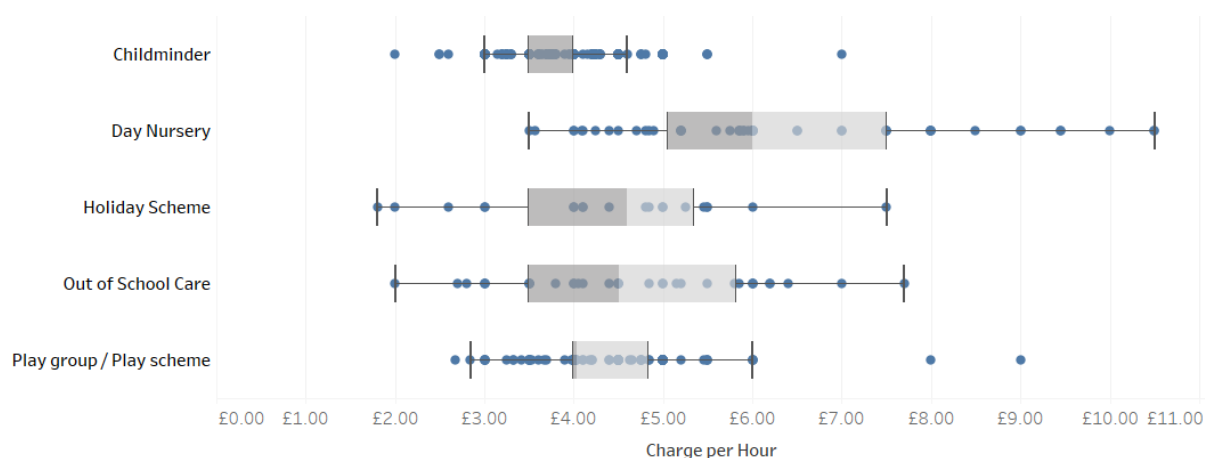
The average costs of childcare in Leicestershire per hour is £4.34. The cost of childcare varies across care schemes with day nurseries costing the most with an average cost of £6.36 per hour and a maximum cost of £10.50. Childminders have the lowest charges per hour with an average cost of £3.87 and a maximum cost of £7 per hour. The variability in costs charged by childcare providers by childcare type can be seen in Figure 6.

Table 9: Minimum, maximum and average charges of care schemes per hour within Leicestershire, April 2022^v

	Minimum charge per hour	Maximum charge per hour	Average charge per hour
Childminder	£2.00	£7.00	£3.87
Day Nursery	£3.50	£10.50	£6.36
Holiday Scheme	£1.80	£7.50	£4.39
Out of School Care	£2.00	£25.00	£5.68
Play Group / Play Scheme	£2.67	£9.00	£4.35
All Providers	£1.80	£25.00	£4.34

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, April 2022

Figure 6: Boxplot showing the variability in hourly childcare costs by provider type.



Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, April 2022

^v Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service database.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

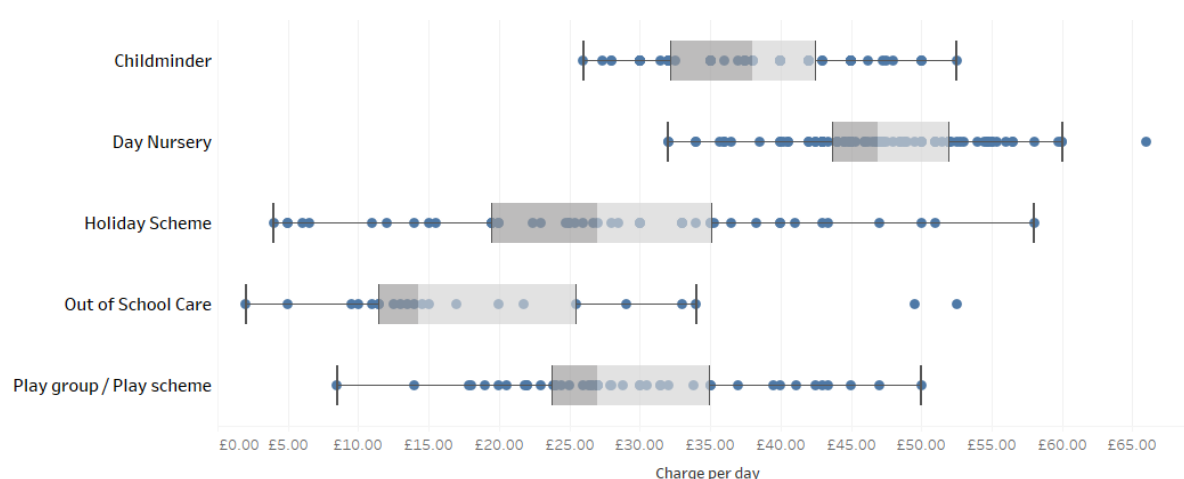
Some childcare providers charge by the day. Table 10 below shows that day nurseries have the highest average charge per day and out of school care has the lowest charge per day. This is likely to reflect the number of hours each care scheme provides. Before and after school care is likely to consist of 2 - 4 hours per day whereas a day nursery place is likely to be more than 6 hours. The variability in costs charged by childcare providers by childcare type can be seen in Figure 7.

Table 10: Minimum, maximum and average charges of care schemes per day within Leicestershire, April 2022^{vi}

	Minimum charge per day	Maximum charge per day	Average charge per day
Childminder	£26.00	£52.50	£38.30
Day Nursery	£32.00	£66.00	£47.20
Holiday Scheme	£4.00	£58.00	£27.50
Out of School Care	£2.00	£52.50	£19.30
Play Group / Play Scheme	£8.50	£50.00	£29.20
All Providers	£2.00	£66.00	£36.67

Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, April 2022

Figure 7: Boxplot showing the variability in daily childcare costs by provider type



Source: Leicestershire County Council Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service, April 2022

^{vi} Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service database.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Out of School Provision Parent Feedback Survey 2022

The local authority asked for the views of parents and carers on out of school childcare in Leicestershire in 2022. The survey was created to understand the needs of parents and carers when choosing out of school childcare for their children. Overall, 57 parents / carers responded to the survey, with 41% of parents / carers reporting that their children had a Special Educational Need or Disability (24) as shown in Figure 8 below. The results have been split by children with SEND throughout this section. More information on the results can be found on the [Out of School Provision Parent Feedback Survey](#). Below are the responses from the parents who took part in the survey.

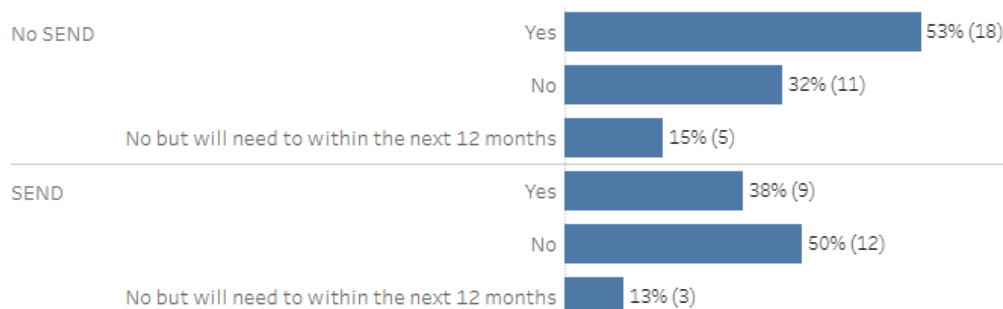
Figure 8: Percentage of parents / carers surveyed with children with SEND



Who is currently using out of school childcare?

Parent's and carer's choice on whether to use out of school childcare provision depends upon several factors. The factors are likely to be different for each family depending on their social and financial situation. Figure 9 shows that 53% of parents / carers that do not have children with SEND said that they currently use some form of out of school childcare. The percentage of parents with a child with SEND using out of school childcare was 38%.

Figure 9: Percentage of parents / carers who use out of school childcare



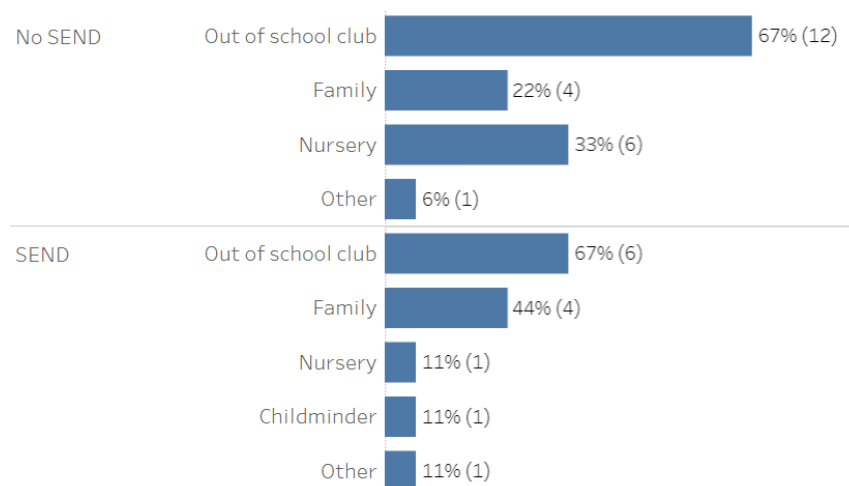
What type of out of school provision is currently used?

Figure 10 shows the percentage of parents / carers who are currently using out of school childcare, split by children that have SEND. For parents / carers with children that do not have SEND, 67% said they are using an out of school club, a third said they used a nursery (33%), over a fifth said their used family (22%) and a smaller percentage said other (6%). Out

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

of school clubs were also popular with parents that have children with SEND with 67% of parents selecting this as the option they currently use.

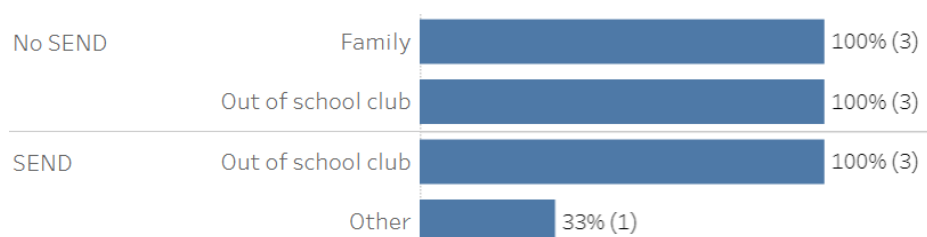
Figure 10: Percentage of the type of out of school provision currently used by parents / carers



Who is planning to use out of school childcare?

Some parents / carers do not currently use out of school childcare but are planning to do so in the next twelve months. All parents / carers said they were planning to use an out of school club (100%) and family (100%). A third of parents (33%) with children with SEND were planning to use 'Other' out of school provisions (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Percentage of the type of out of school childcare parents/carers are planning on using out of school childcare



Where is the out of school club located?

Parents / carers that are currently using or planning to use an out of school club for their children were asked where the out of school club is based. Figure 12 shows that for parents / carers that do not have children with SEND, 40% plan on using an out of school club located in Charnwood. A fifth (20%) of parents plan on using an out of school club in Melton, 20% in North West Leicestershire and 20% Other (outside of LLR). For parents that have children with SEND, 33% plan on using an out of school club Located in Charnwood, 33% in Hinckley & Bosworth and 33% Other (outside LLR).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 13 shows that for parents / carers that do not have children with SEND, 35% currently use an out of school club located in Oadby and Wigston. This was followed by North West Leicestershire (29%), Blaby (18%) and 6% for Charnwood, Harborough and Leicester. For parents / carers that have children with SEND, 33% are currently using an out of school club in Hinckley and Bosworth, 22% in Blaby and 11% in Charnwood, Harborough, North West Leicestershire and Other (outside LLR).

Figure 12: Percentage of the location of out of school clubs parents / carers plan on using

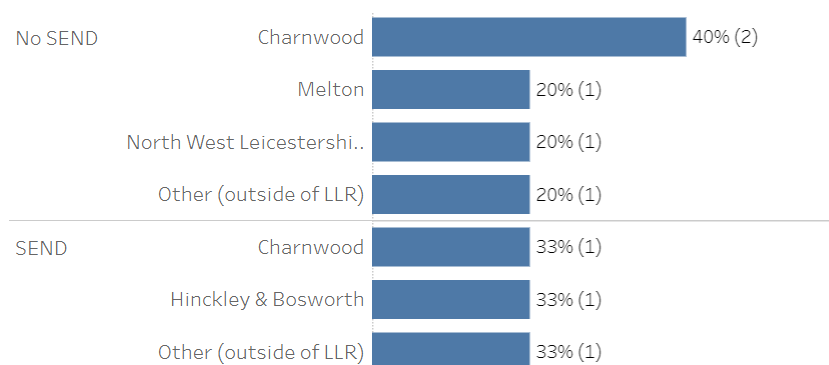
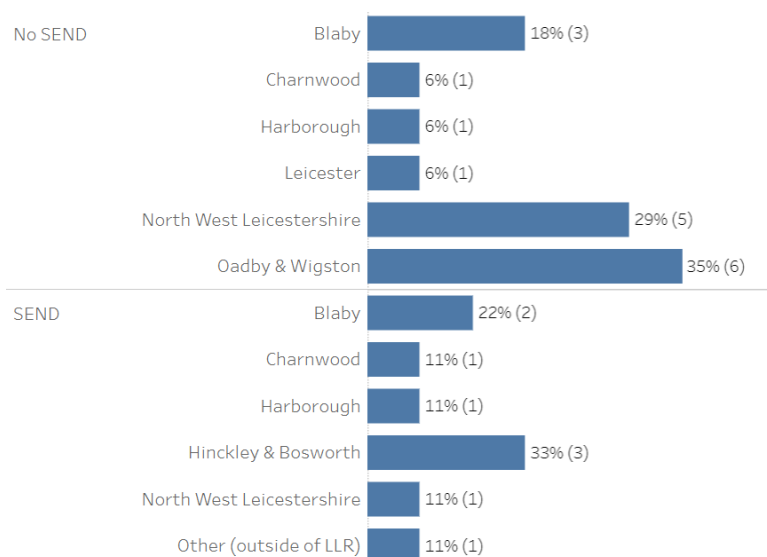


Figure 13: Percentage of the location of out of school clubs parents / carers currently use



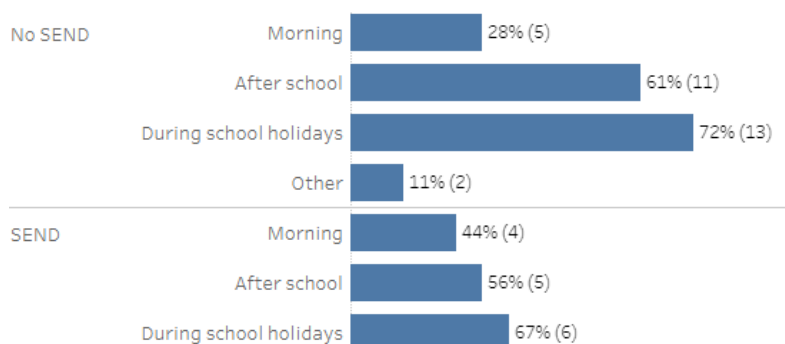
When is out of school childcare used?

The survey asked parents / carers who currently use out of school childcare when they use it. “During school holidays” was the most popular time for using out of school childcare, selected by 72% of parents / carers that do not have children with SEND and 67% of parents / carers that do have children with SEND. “After school” was another popular option selected by parents / carers (61% with children with no SEND and 56% for children with

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

SEND) followed by “Morning” (28% with children without SEND and 44% for children with SEND).

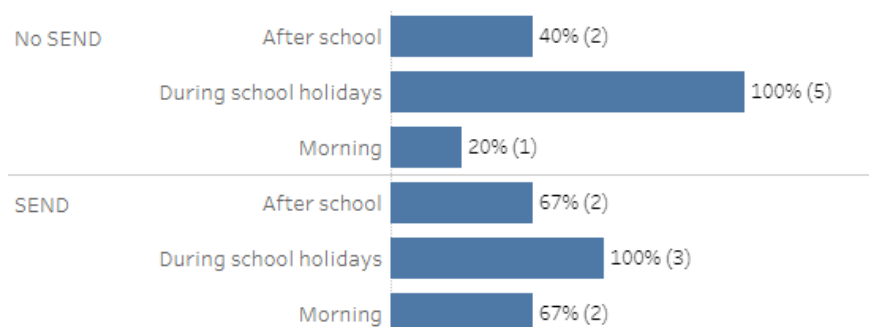
Figure 14: Percentage of the timings parents / carers currently use of out of school childcare



When is out of school childcare planning to be used?

Of those parents / carers that do not currently use out of school childcare but are planning to, all parents / carers with and without children with SEND selected “During school holidays” as the time they plan on using out of school childcare (100%). This was followed by “After school” (40% with children without SEND and 67% for children with SEND) and “Morning” (20% with children without SEND and 67% for children with SEND).

Figure 15: Timing’s parents / carers plan on using out of school childcare

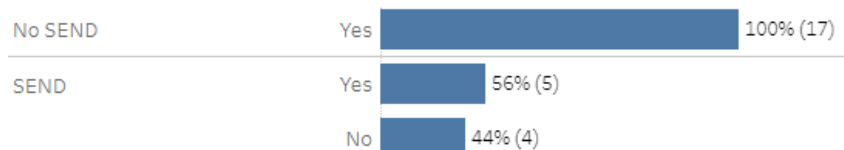


Are parents able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare?

All parents / carers (100%) that do not have children with SEND and are currently using out of school childcare said they are able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare. This is different for parents / carers of children with SEND as 56% said they are able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare, whereas 44% said they are not (see Figure 16).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 16: Percentage of parents/carers able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare



Parents / carers who said they are not able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare were asked to explain their reasons for selecting “No”. They mentioned this was because of availability of suitable out of school clubs and unsuitable hours and days to fit their working patterns.

Is current out of school childcare provision meeting parents / carers working pattern needs?

Of the parents / carers that currently use out of school childcare that do not have children with SEND, 84% said they agreed that their current out of school childcare meets their working pattern needs, 11% neither agreed nor disagreed and 6% disagreed. For parents / carers that have children with SEND, 44% said they agreed that their current out of school childcare meets their working pattern needs, 33% neither agreed nor disagreed and 22% disagreed (see Figure 17).

Figure 17: Out of school childcare meeting parent’s/carer’s working pattern needs

No SEND



SEND



Response

- Strongly disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to agree
- Strongly agree

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Parents / carers who agreed said they were always able to get childcare when they requested it, the location and opening hours of their childcare were suitable, and the flexibility of their work pattern suited the opening times of the childcare.

Parents / carers that disagreed said the out of school childcare had a maximum of two evenings per child, the hours of the childcare did not fit around their work hours and the inflexibility and high cost of the childcare.

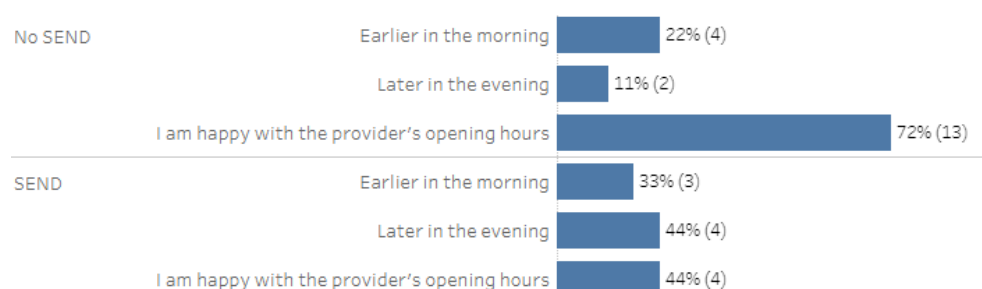
What additional support do parents / carers need to help find childcare that meets their needs?

Parents / carers were asked what additional support would help them find childcare that meets their needs. Some mentioned needing financial help and having more affordable childcare. Parents also mentioned that the childcare should be more inclusive and have staff that understand children's needs.

Are parents happy with the opening hours of their out of school childcare provision?

Parents / carers who currently use out of school childcare were asked if they would like their out of school childcare provider to open earlier and / or remain open for longer in the evening. Most parents / carers said they are happy with their provider's opening hours (72% for parents / carers with children without SEND and 44% for parents / carers with children with SEND). Over a fifth (22%) of parents / carers that do not have children with SEND said they would like their provider to open earlier and 11% said they would like their provider to remain open longer in the evening. Over two-fifths (44%) of parents / carers that have children with SEND would like their provider to remain open longer in the evening and a third (33%) said they would like their provider to open earlier in the morning (see Figure 18).

Figure 18: Preferred timings of out of school childcare

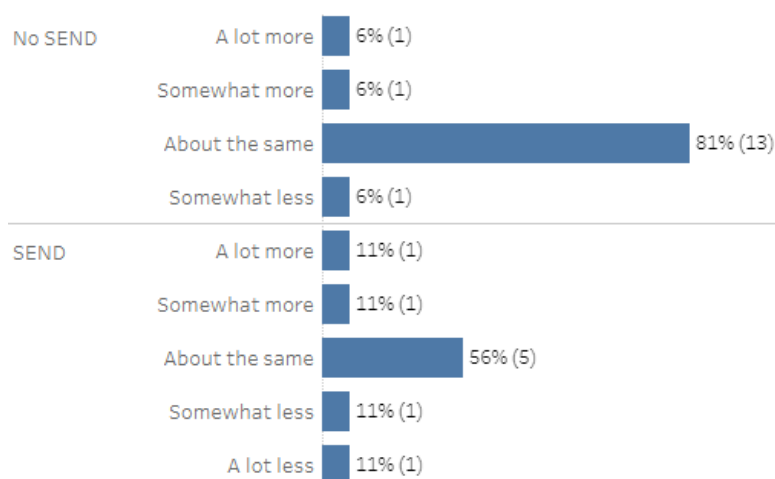


Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Has the Covid-19 pandemic changed how parents use out of school childcare?

Since the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020), out of school childcare providers have not been able to operate in the same way as they used to. In the survey, parents / carers who currently use out of school childcare were asked if the pandemic has changed the way they use out of school childcare. Most parents / carers said they use out of school childcare about the same as before the pandemic (81% for parents / carers that do not have children with SEND and 56% for parents / carers that do have children with SEND). Over a tenth (12%) of parents / carers that do not have children with SEND said they use out of school childcare more than before the pandemic and 6% said they use it less. Over a fifth (22%) of parents / carers that have children with SEND use out of school childcare more than before the pandemic and 22% said they use it less (see Figure 19).

Figure 19: Usage of out of school childcare since the pandemic



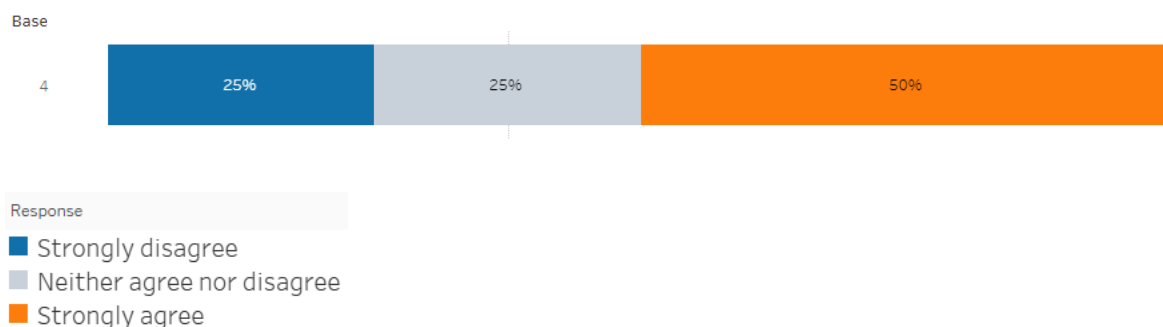
Parents / carers who said they used out of school childcare more since the pandemic mentioned this was because they were now working from home. Parents / carers who said that they use out of school childcare less since the pandemic, said that they want to avoid children being in large groups indoors and constant isolating due to covid. Out of school childcare having no back up staff was also a reason parents / carers gave.

Does the out of school club meet the individual SEND needs of children?

Parents / carers of children with SEND were asked whether they agree or disagree that the out of school club they currently use meets the individual SEND needs of their child. Half (50%) of parents / carers strongly agreed, 25% neither agreed nor disagreed and 25% strongly disagreed (see Figure 20).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 20: Out of school club meeting SEND needs of children



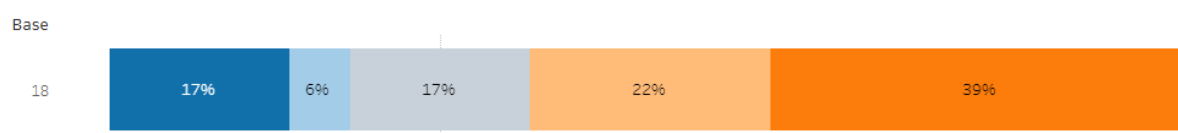
Parents / carers who agreed mentioned that the out of school club had a strong understanding of special needs and of their child.

Is out of school childcare good value for money?

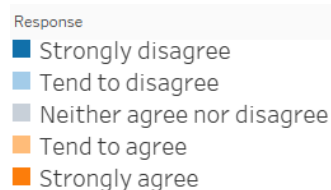
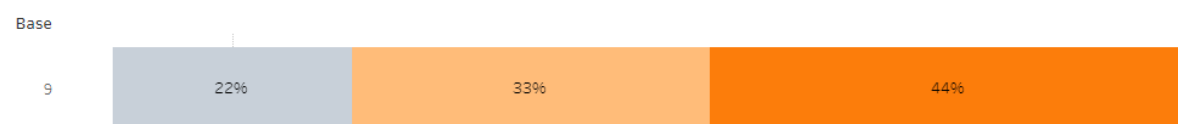
Most parents / carers agreed that their out of school childcare that they currently use is good value for money (61% for parents / carers that do not have children with SEND and 77% for parents / carers that have children with SEND). For parents / carers that do not have children with SEND, 17% neither agreed nor disagreed and 23% disagreed that their out of school childcare is good value for money. For parents that have children with SEND, 22% neither agreed nor disagreed (see Figure 21)

Figure 21: Out of school childcare being good value for money

No SEND



SEND



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Parents / carers who agreed that it was a good value for money said that their out of school childcare provided a good service, activities and suitable meals for their child. Parents / carers who disagreed said the price was too expensive and did not provide sufficient activities for their child.

Out of School Provision Provider Feedback Survey 2022

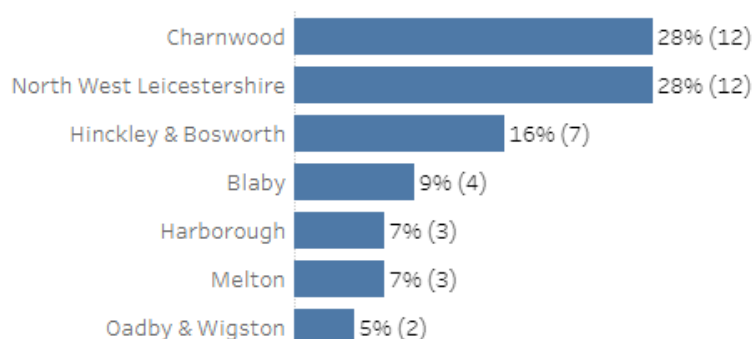
The local authority asked for the views of providers of out of school childcare in Leicestershire in 2022. The [survey](#) was created to help to assess the existing childcare provision in Leicestershire and help influence the quality and availability of future provision. Overall, 45 providers responded to the survey. This section provides analysis for the responses collected from providers who took part in the survey.

Location of out of school provision

Where is the out of school provision located?

The highest number of respondents said their out of school provision was located in Charnwood (28%) and North West Leicestershire (28%), with 16% who said their provision was located in Hinckley and Bosworth, 9% in Blaby, 7% in Harborough, 7% in Melton and 5% in Oadby and Wigston (see Figure 22).

Figure 22: Percentage of locations of out of school provision



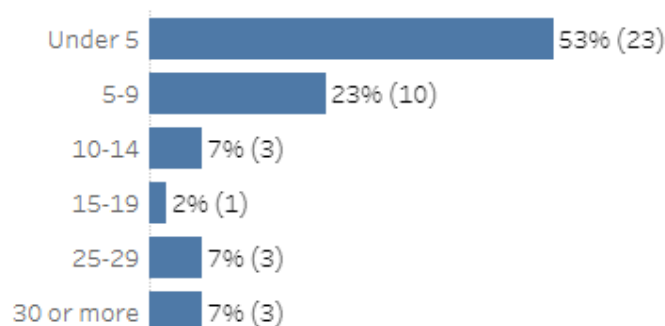
Staffing

How many staff do providers currently have?

Figure 23 shows that over half of the providers said they have under five members of staff (53%), 23% of the providers have between five and nine members of staff. Fewer providers said they had more than ten members of staff (10%).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

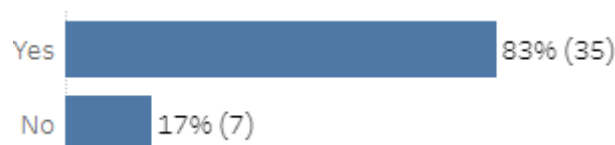
Figure 23: Percentage of staff providers currently have



Do providers feel they have enough staff?

Providers were asked if they feel they currently have enough staff. Figure 24 shows that over two-fifths of providers said they feel that they currently have enough staff (83%) with two-fifths who said they feel they don't have enough staff (17%).

Figure 24: Percentages of providers feeling that they have enough staff



Do providers have any issues retaining staff?

Just over a tenth of providers said they had issues retaining staff (see Figure 25).

Figure 25: Percentage of providers that have issues retaining staff



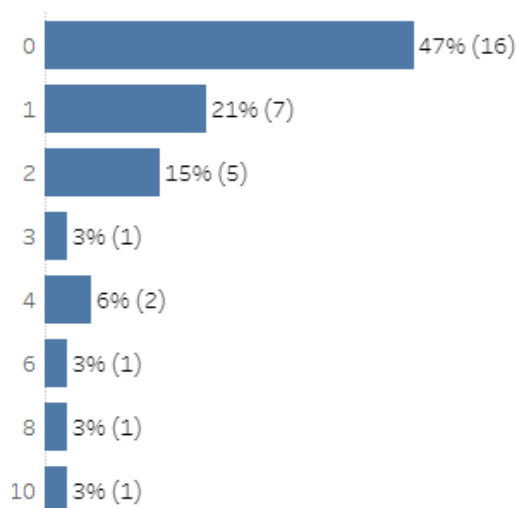
Those who said they had issues retaining staff were asked what the issues were. One provider mentioned that they are finding it difficult to recruit good quality staff and that staff are able to earn more money in another role with much less responsibility.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

How many staff have left in the last 12 months?

Figure 26 shows that just under a half of providers said that no members of staff have left in the last twelve months (47%), 21% of providers said that one member of staff had left and 15% had said two members of staff had left in the last twelve months.

Figure 26: Percentage of staff that have left in the last 12 months



Recruiting new staff

Figure 27 shows over two-fifths of providers said they have tried to recruit new staff in the last 12 months (43%).

Figure 27: Percentage of providers that have tried to recruit new staff in the last 12 months

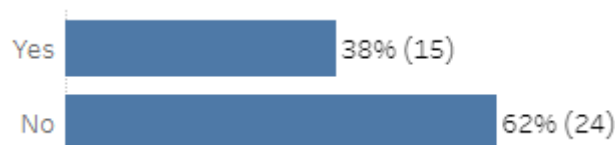


How many staff recruited in the last 12 months

Of the 43% that said they have tried to recruit new members of staff in the last twelve months, 38% said they had managed to recruit new staff, whereas 62% said they had not (see Figure 28).

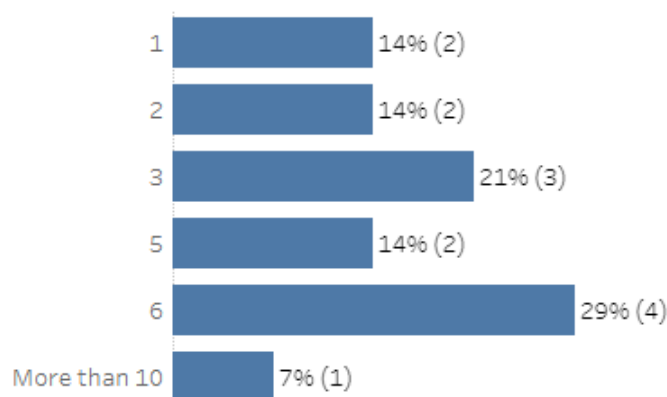
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 28: Percentage of providers managing to recruit new staff in the last 12 months



Providers that had managed to recruit new staff were asked how many staff they have recruited in the last twelve months. Over two thirds (63%) said they have recruited five or under new members of staff, 29% have recruited six new members of staff and 7% have recruited more than ten members of staff (see Figure 29).

Figure 29: Percentage of staff recruited by providers in the last 12 months



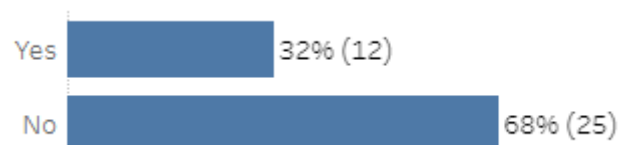
All providers were then asked whether they have had any issues when recruiting new staff. Many providers mentioned that applicants had a lack of experience, that they experienced applicants who did not turn up to interviews and were not able to work the hours need.

Opening times

Are providers able to extend their opening times?

The survey asked providers a series of questions about their opening times. Figure 30 shows that 68% of providers would not be able to extend their opening times to meet parental working patterns. Just under a third of providers (32%) said that they would be able to extend their opening times.

Figure 30: Percentage of providers able to extend their opening times

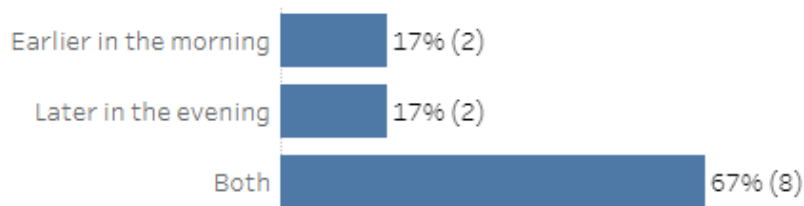


Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Are providers able to open earlier in the morning or later in the evening?

Providers who said they are able to extend their opening times to meet parental working patterns were asked if they would be able to open earlier in the morning or later in the evening. Figure 31 shows that most providers said they would be able to do both (67%), 17% said they would be able to open earlier in the morning and 17% said they would be able to open later in the evening.

Figure 31: Percentage of providers able to open at different times

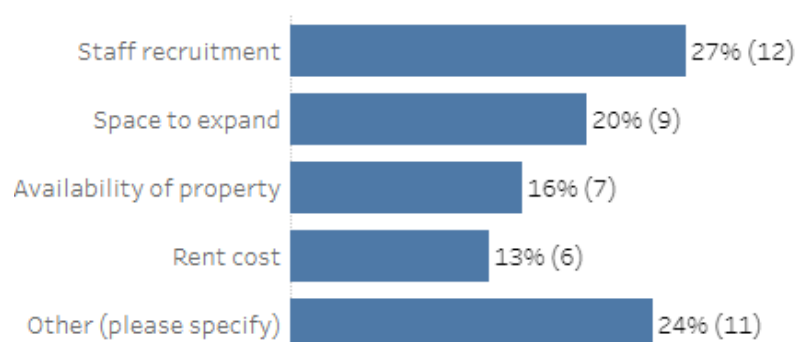


Barriers that prevent provision from expanding to offer extended hours or holiday care

Providers who said they would not be able to extend their opening times to meet parental working patterns were asked to select from a list of barriers that may prevent them from expanding to offer extended hours or holiday care.

Figure 32 shows that over a quarter of providers said staff recruitment was a barrier (27%). 20% of providers said space to expand, 16% said availability of property and 13% said rent cost was a barrier that prevented them offering extended hours or holiday care. Of the 24% of respondents who said there were other barriers, the following factors were mentioned: staff not wanting to work extended hours, feeling that their opening hours are enough and providers having children of their own and needing a break.

Figure 32: Barriers that prevent providers from expanding (multiple choice)



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Waiting list

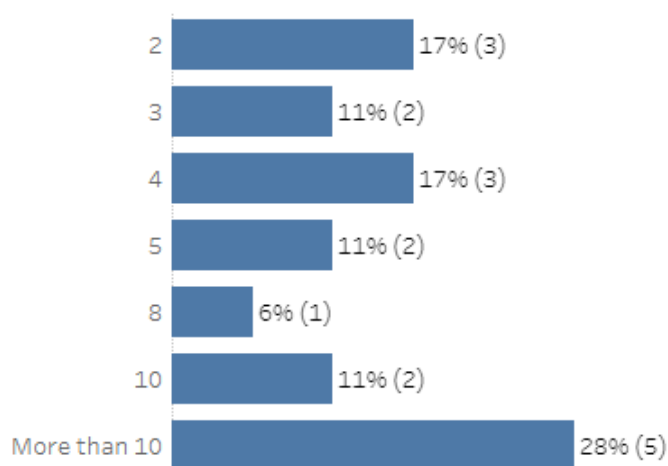
Do providers currently have a waiting list?

Just under half of providers (47%) said they currently have a waiting list (see Figure 33). Of those who said they had a waiting list, 28% said they have more than 10 children that are on the waiting list to join their out of school provision (see Figure 34).

Figure 33: Percentage of providers that currently have a waiting list



Figure 34: Percentage of children on providers' waiting list



Advertising provision

How do providers advertise their out of school provision?

The survey asked providers how they advertise their out of school provision. Most providers said they used word of mouth as a way of advertising their out of school provision. Social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram pages were also mentioned by providers. Some providers said they also use the council's website to advertise. Others said they do not advertise at all.

Inclusive provision

Do providers promote out of school childcare on the Local Offer?

The Local Offer gives children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and their families information about help and services in Leicestershire.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Providers were asked if they promote their out of school childcare on the Local Offer. Figure 35 shows 7% of providers said they promote their out of school childcare on the Local Offer, whereas the majority of providers (93%) said they do not.

Figure 35: Percentage of providers who promote on the Local Offer



Providers that do not promote their out of school childcare on the Local Offer were asked whether there was a reason why not. Some providers said that had not been aware that they could do this or had never heard about the Local Offer prior to completing the survey. Other providers mentioned that they are only offering their provision to children from their school, or that they do not want a large group due to logistical difficulties.

Have providers completed the local offer SEND report?

Providers should publish a SEN information report about their provision and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Just under half of providers (47%) said they have completed the SEND report so that parents / carers can make an informed decision about choosing out of school childcare. Over half (53%) said they have not completed this (see Figure 36).

Figure 36: Percentage of providers that have completed the SEND report

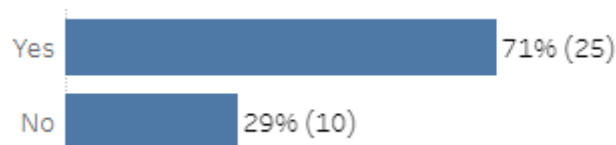


Is out of school provision accessible for children with SEND / additional needs?

Figure 37 shows that the majority of providers said their out of school provision is accessible for children with SEND / additional needs (71%).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 37: Percentage of providers that are accessible for children with SEND / additional needs



The providers who said their provision was accessible for children with SEND / additional needs were asked how they encourage parents / carers to choose their provision if their child has additional needs. Many providers mentioned that they discuss the children's needs with parents / carers and invite them to come in for a visit with their child. They were also asked if there is any additional support that they need to promote their offer. Financial support was mentioned by a few providers.

Providers who had said their provision was not accessible for children with SEND / additional needs were asked whether there were any barriers that were preventing them from being accessible. Some providers mentioned accessibility as being a barrier, for example they have no wheelchair access or the stairs are not accessible to an upstairs toilet. Another provider said they do not possess the skills or training to help children with additional needs.

Do providers have children accessing their provision with SEND / additional needs?

Over two thirds (68%) of providers said they currently have children with SEND / additional needs that are accessing their provision (Figure 38).

Figure 38: Percentage of providers that have children with SEND / additional needs accessing their provision

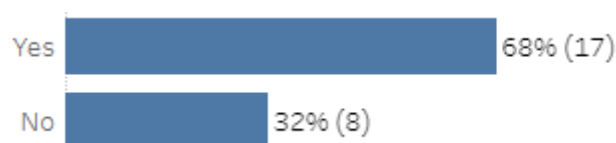
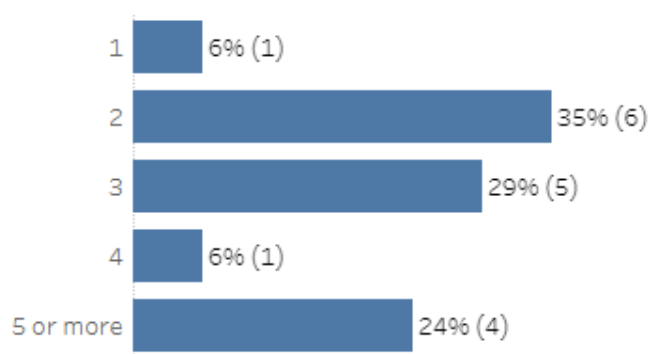


Figure 39 shows that 41% of providers said they currently have between 1-2 children accessing their provision with SEND / additional needs, 35% have between 3-4 children and 24% of providers have 5 or more children with SEND / additional needs accessing their provision.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

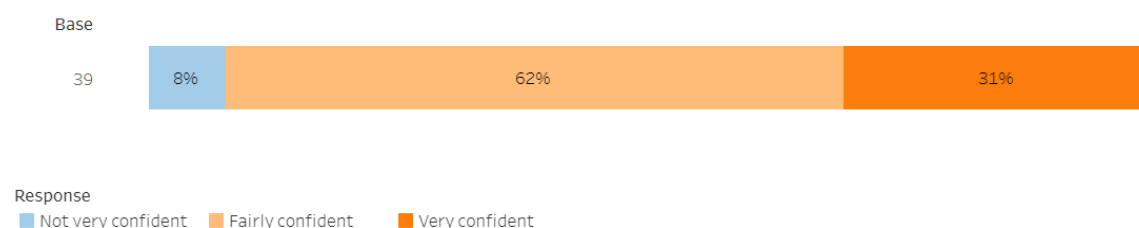
Figure 39: Percentage of the number of children with SEND / additional needs accessing provision



Confidence of staff in supporting children with SEND / additional needs

Figure 40 shows that 31% of providers said they felt that their staff are very confident in supporting children with SEND, 62% said they felt fairly confident and 8% said they felt not very confident.

Figure 40: Confidence of staff in supporting children with SEND / additional needs



Providers who said they were confident mentioned that they have staff who are experienced and have had training on how to support children with SEND / additional needs.

Of the providers who said that they feel that their staff do not feel confident in supporting children with SEND / additional needs mentioned that they have had none or little training. Others said that they do not currently have children with SEND / additional needs at their provision but would seek additional training if and when needed.

What would help staff to feel more confident in supporting children with SEND / additional needs?

Providers were asked what would help their staff feel more confident to support children with SEND / additional needs. Many providers mentioned the need for more training, awareness and understanding of SEND and how they can support children with SEND or additional needs. Some providers also mentioned the need for more funding to support children with additional needs.

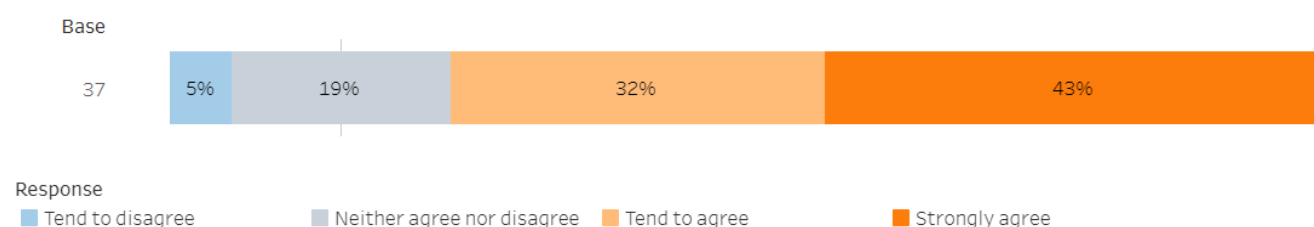
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Do providers have a good working relationship with schools for transitions to their out of school provision?

The survey asked providers to what extent they agree or disagree that they have a good working relationship with schools when children transition to / from their out of school provision. Over a quarter of providers said they agreed (75%), 19% said their neither agreed nor disagreed and 5% said they disagreed (see Figure 41).

Providers were asked what could improve their working relationship with the school for the transitions at the beginning and / or end of the day. Communication with schools was a factor that several providers had mentioned.

Figure 41: Percentage of providers that feel they have a good working relationship with school for transitions to out of school provision



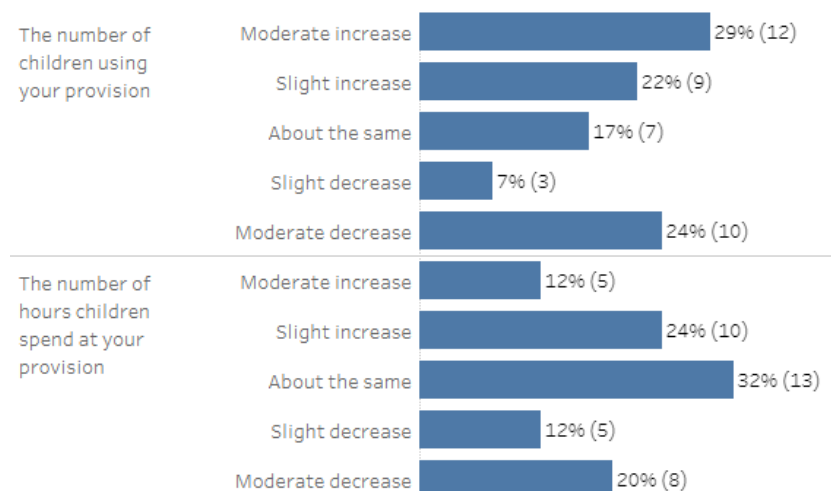
Has the number of children / hours children spend using provision changed since the start of the pandemic?

Providers were asked if the number of children using their out of school provision has changed since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. Over a half (51%) of providers said they have had increase in the number of children using their provision, whereas 31% said the number has decreased.

Providers were also asked whether they have seen an increase or decrease in the number of hours children spend at their out of school provision since the start of the pandemic. Over a third (36%) of providers said they had seen an increase, 32% said they had seen a decrease and for 32% of providers said this had stayed about the same (see Figure 42).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 42: Increase or decrease in the number of children / hours spent using out of school provision since the start of the pandemic



Providers who said they have seen an increase in the number children and / or in the number of hours children spend at out of school provision said that this has impacted their provision in a few ways. Providers who said that the increase has impacted them negatively, said they now have an increase in demand which they cannot meet. Others said they have had to limit numbers, hire out additional areas, recruit more staff and have reached capacity at their provision. Providers who said the increase has impacted them positively, said this increase has kept them sustainable and kept them going through the pandemic.

Providers who said they have seen a decrease in the number of children and / or in the number of hours children spend at out of school provision, said this has had a negative impact for them. They mentioned the financial impact, such as business decreasing, no longer being profitable and their income being reduced.

Partnership working

Providers were asked if they have considered working with other sporting or extracurricular organisations. Most providers said no they have not considered this before but said that they would be open and interested in doing so. Some providers already do this. Forest School, ME Sports, Super Start Sports, Sydney Shakers were some of the organisations mentioned by providers.

Training

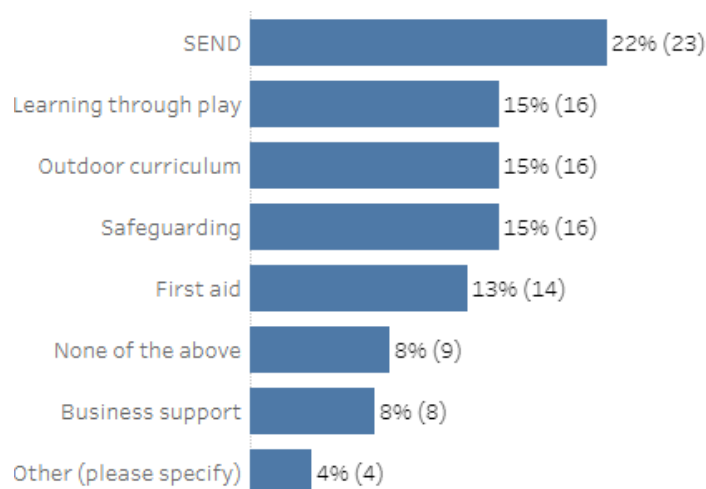
What training would providers like to be offered in the future?

Providers were given a list of different types of training and asked which, if any, of the following training would they like to be offered in the future (see Figure 43). Over a fifth of providers said they would like training in SEND (22%), 15% said learning through play, outdoor curriculum and safeguarding, and 13% said they would like first aid training. Under a tenth said they would like training in business support (8%). Some providers said they

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

would like other training (4%) including specific early years foundation stage (EYFS) training, and social, emotional and mental health difficulties training (SEMH).

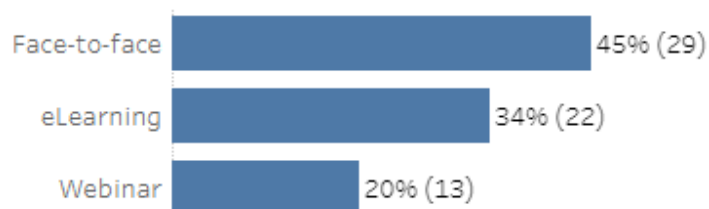
Figure 43: Percentage of the types of training providers would like to be offered



How would providers like future training to be delivered?

Providers were asked how they would like training to be delivered in the future (see Figure 44). The most popular choice was face-to-face (45%), followed by eLearning (34%) and Webinar (20%).

Figure 44: Percentage of the preference of future learning (multiple choice)

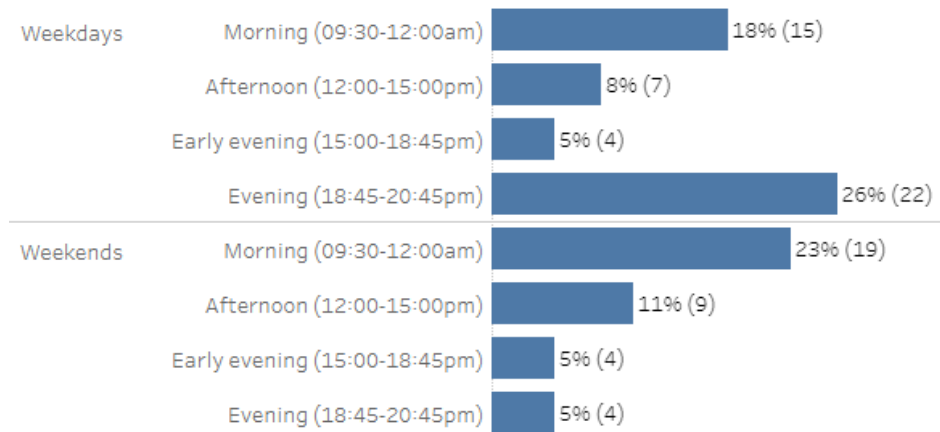


Days / times providers would like future training to be delivered

Providers were asked to select what times they would like future training to be delivered on weekdays and weekends. Figure 45 shows that the most popular choice for weekdays was in the evenings (26%). For weekends, the most popular choice was in the morning (23%).

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Figure 45: Percentage of preferred days / timings providers would like training to be delivered



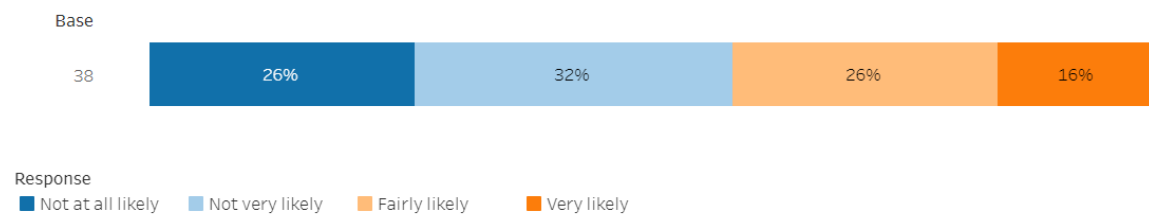
Sustainability

Are providers likely to change their business model to remain viable?

Providers were asked how likely they would be to change their business model to remain viable to meet demand so that they are still sustainable and meeting need post the pandemic (see Figure 46). Two-fifths of providers (42%) said they would be likely to do so. Providers who said they would be likely to change their business model to remain viable, gave reasons such as the need to meet all childcare needs, due to changes in the need for childcare, trying to keep up with demand and because of rising costs due to minimum wage.

Over half of providers said they would not be likely to change their business model (58%). These providers mentioned reasons such as being happy with the way their business is running, feeling confident they will remain viable due to their experience and families being happy with their provision.

Figure 46: Likelihood of providers to change their business model to remain viable



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

Methodology

Number of children

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates 2020 were used as the base to estimate the demand for childcare across Leicestershire.

Supply of childcare

Leicestershire County Council's Early Years Inclusion and Childcare Service maintains a database of all childcare providers across the County. It is based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision as well as voluntary registered providers. This database includes details about each provider, including: location, type of provision, cost, Ofsted ratings, number of places available and type of FEEE funding they offer. This data source was used to assess:

- Numbers of Childcare places available
- Price of Childcare
- Quality of Childcare

The number of childcare providers and places, Ofsted ratings and prices were correct at time of data export in April 2022.

Funded early education (FEEE) data

The take-up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years Census, which is taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection education provision; Data is collected six times a year via the providers filling in the headcount task of the number of children claiming FEEE at their provision. The take up of FEEE information was used to estimate sufficiency at a local level.

Data from providers and parents - 2019

Parental views on childcare have been collected by means of a questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to capture current childcare usage including take-up of FEEE, satisfaction with childcare provision and suggestions for improvements to their current childcare. The survey was available online between October 2018 to April 2019. The consultation received 169 responses from parents / carers with 277 children.

Data from providers and parents - 2022

Parental views on childcare have been collected by means of a questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to capture current and planned out of school childcare usage including needs and requirements when choosing out of school childcare, satisfaction with

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

childcare provision, timings and suggestions for improvements to their current or planned childcare.

The survey was available online between June 2022 to October 2022. The consultation received 57 responses from parents / carers. The results of the [survey](#) are available as a tableau dashboard for more in-depth analysis by users.

Views of providers of out of school childcare were also captured in a separate questionnaire. This questionnaire was designed to help assess existing childcare provision in Leicestershire by asking providers a range of questions on different topics such as staffing, opening times, waiting lists, having inclusive provision, advertising provision, partnership working, training and sustainability. The consultation received 45 responses from providers. The results of the [survey](#) are available as a tableau dashboard for more in-depth analysis by users.

Actions

The following issues have been identified.	Details	Actions
Leicestershire has insufficient out of school (OOS) childcare and holiday care for all school age children.	Local variation across Leicestershire indicates several areas that are insufficient in registered childcare. These are Green hill and Charley, Great Easton, Tilton and Hungarton. These areas are characterised by very low supply of OOS or holiday clubs.	<p>Work with HAF playscheme providers to offer paid for places to provide childcare.</p> <p>Look at childminder supporting childcare in rural areas.</p>
56% of parents / carers who completed the survey and have children with SEND said they are able to access their preferred choice of out of school childcare.	Special schools are unable to offer out of school provision due to transport arrangements.	Work with transport to support parents with preferred drop off point rather than home.
44% of parents / carers that have children with SEND who completed the survey agree that their current out of school childcare meets their working pattern needs.	Out of school provision is not always within the locality of child's home or where they access their school placement.	Work with transport to support parents with preferred drop off point rather than home.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

<p>93% of providers who completed the survey do not promote their out of school childcare on the Local Offer.</p>	<p>Providers mentioned not being aware of the Local Offer as reasons for not promoting their provision.</p>	<p>Link to local offer is sent to all providers and market their SEND offer.</p> <p>Information session being run in February 2023 to support inclusion - case study and example SEND offer form being discussed and shared along with information about the local offer.</p>
---	---	---

Glossary of Terms

CSA	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
DfE	Department for Education
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EY	Early Years Children (age 0 - 4)
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
FEEE	Funded Early Education Entitlement
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
MSOA	Middle Super Output Areas
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OOS	Out of School Care (includes holiday clubs and before & after school childcare)
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024

References

¹ Local Government Association LGA (2016), Childcare Act 2016 (Get in on the Act). Available @ <https://www.local.gov.uk/childcare-act-2016-get-act>

² Leicestershire County Council (2019), Support from the Local Authority. Available @ <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-learning-and-childcare/support-from-the-local-authority>

³ Office for National statistics (2019) Census geography. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/ukgeographies/censusgeography>

⁴ Leicestershire County Council, (2019) Special educational needs and disability, Local Offer. Available at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability>

⁵ Department for Education (2019), Special educational needs in England. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-special-educational-needs-sen>

⁶ Department for education <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5>

⁷ England comparison <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5>

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2024



If you require information contained in this leaflet in another version e.g. large print, Braille, tape or alternative language please telephone: 0116 305 6803, Fax: 0116 305 7271 or Minicom: 0116 305 6160.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 6803 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા અવસ્થા કરીશું.

જેવર ત્રવાઠું ઇસ જાઠવારી ઠું સમજઠ વિષ રૂઝ મદદ ઇચ્છી ઠી ત્રં વિરપા વરવે 0116 305 6803 નંબર ઠે ફોન કરે અઠે અસીં ત્રવાઠી મદદ ઇછી વિસે ઠા પૂર્ણ વર ઠવાંગે।

ઐઠી તથા નિજેર ભાષાઝ વુઝાર જન્યા આપનાર યદિ કોન સાહાયેર પ્રયોજન હઝ, તવે 0116 305 6803 ઐઠી નમ્બરે ફોન કરલે આમરા ઉપયુક્ત વ્યાક્ટિર વ્યાવસ્થા કરવો।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔ 0116 305 6803

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 6803，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 6803, a my Ci dopomożemy.

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence Branch

Chief Executive's Department
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RA
ri@leics.gov.uk
www.lsr-online.org