

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011

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1. Executive Summary

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to carry out and publish a sufficiency assessment of childcare in their area at least every 3 years. Local authorities carried out their first assessment in 2008 and the next must be completed by April 2011.

1.1. What is sufficient childcare?

Local authorities are under a duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare provision in their areas for two main purposes under Section 6 (1) of the Childcare Act 2006, the provision must be “sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the local authority’s area who require childcare in order to enable them to:

- a) take up, or remain in, work, or
- b) undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.”

This requirement is applicable to all children up to 1st September after they reach the age of 14. For disabled children (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995), the requirement applies to children or young people until they reach the age of 18.

Under Section 6(2) of the Childcare Act 2006, in determining whether childcare is sufficient, the local authority must have regard to the needs of parents in their area

- a) for provision for which the childcare element of Working Tax Credit is payable; and
- b) the provision of childcare that is suitable for disabled children.

Under Section 7(1) of the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities must secure free early years provision for all eligible children in their area. Regulations made under section 7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the age of children to benefit.

1.2. What is childcare?

Government definitions are set out in “Securing Sufficient Childcare – statutory guidance for Local Authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties.” (2010)

Childcare is defined in Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 as “any form of care for a child” including “education ... and any other supervised activity.”

The following are specifically excluded from this definition:

- education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started Key Stage 1 (thereby including nursery and reception classes);
- care provided for a child by a parent, step-parent or person with parental responsibility; or any relative; or foster parent (local authority or private); or
- care provided by a children's home, a care home, a hospital or a residential family centre, a young offenders' institution, a secure training centre, or a secure care home within any of those establishments.

In the Childcare Act 2006, 'early years provision' means childcare for a child aged from birth until the 31st August following the child's 5th birthday and 'later years provision' means childcare for a child from the 1st September following the child's 5th birthday until the child reaches 18. (See sections 20 and 96(6) of the Act).

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

Local authorities should regard childcare as any provision that is regular and reliable and provides children a safe place to be. It would not include, for example, before school or after-school activity that was unsupervised or that was provided as a one-off activity.

1.3. What is the legislative requirement on local authorities to secure sufficient provision?

Section 6(1) of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure the provision of childcare "so far as is reasonably practicable".

In assessing what is "reasonably practicable", the local authority may take into account:

- the state of the local childcare market, including the level of demand in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists;
- the state of the labour market and the potential for increasing the number of people working in childcare;

- the resources available to, and capabilities of, childcare providers (resources means not just the available funding, but also staff and premises, and capabilities will include experience and expertise);
- the need to develop an effective, phased programme to meet the sufficiency duty and;
- the local authority's resources, capabilities and overall budget priorities

1.4. 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Report and Outcomes

Local Picture - Bath and North East Somerset Report 2008

The main conclusions of the 2008 report were:

The majority of parents within the authority have access to sufficient childcare to enable them to work and/or train. This is often a mixture of different types of care and frequently involves contributions from family and friends.

The majority of providers of formal childcare (childminders, out of school settings, nurseries and pre-schools etc) think there is sufficient childcare in their immediate locality. Indeed, 21% of childminders and early education providers think there may be an 'over-supply' of places which adversely affect their occupancy rates.

Nevertheless a significant minority of providers think there are insufficient places in their locality, supporting parental claims of localised shortages.

Evidence suggests that all of the eligible children living in Bath and North East Somerset receive some 'free' Early Years education. Most four year olds attend the reception class in their local school and receive 10 sessions per week.

Throughout the authority as a whole there is sufficient provision for all eligible children to attend for 5 sessions each week (if they so wish). Nevertheless the varying state of the provider vacancies, together with the fact that some of parents are unable to access 5 sessions, indicates that there may be small but significant shortfalls of places in some areas.

The Council took on board the areas highlighted in the 2008, implemented a series of actions to address specific areas, to include: -

- development of space for provision for childcare places, including Early Years spaces for 3 and 4 year olds in the Phase 3 Children's Centres in Chew Valley, Paulton and Keynsham

- targeted childminding recruitment in areas specifically identified in the report as under-supplied to increase the amount and choice of provision
- a further assessment of the Early Years Entitlement examining the 41% of families not taking up the full entitlement revealed that 84% of families do so out of choice and only 4% because they could not get them at a suitable time
- the inclusion of the impact of development on childcare provision and availability in the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in recognition that sufficiency of provision is now a statutory Council duty
- the substantial expansion of the Extended Services offer for school age children between 2008 and 2010.

1.5. National Picture - Office for Public Management (OPM) report 2008

Following publication of the 2008 reports, what was the then, Department for Children, Schools and Families commissioned OPM to review the reports produced by local authorities. Forty reports were examined (not that of Bath and North East Somerset) and the key childcare gaps that emerged in their assessment related to:

- the provision of holiday childcare (especially for disabled children)
- childcare for 0-two year olds, although with significant variability even on the intra-LA level
- provision for disabled children and those with additional needs
- the cost and affordability of childcare
- information about childcare provision in the local area.

These findings then informed some areas of national (England) policy and initiative development including:

- DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access To Childcare) which is part of the Aiming High programme. Bath and North East Somerset received funding from this initiative in 2010/11
- extended schools subsidy ("YourTime!" in Bath and North East Somerset)
- the Family Information Directory providing online information for families

- the early education pilot for economically disadvantaged two year old children. From September 2009 the funding enabled 50 of the most economically disadvantaged two year old children in Bath and North East Somerset to receive up to 10 hours of free nursery education each week for up to 38 weeks of the year (380 hours a year), alongside family support services
- the increase in the Early Years Entitlement (EYE). From September 2010, the EYE offer increased to 570 hours a year, which equates to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, 95 more hours than the previous offer.

1.6. Childcare in Bath and North East Somerset

There are over 1,200 people working in childcare across Bath and North East Somerset. Provision ranges from Day Nurseries, Pre-Schools and Out of School Clubs to individuals working as Childminders.

In Bath and North East Somerset the majority of childcare provision is delivered by the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors.

- 93% of providers offering the Early Years Entitlement are from the PVI sector
- 90% of the total Early Years Entitlement places were supplied by the PVI sector
- the Council delivers only a small part of early years provision through the Children's Centre offer
- there are eight nursery classes delivered by schools
- other childcare is provided through the extended services offer which is again a mixed economy model of delivery.

In seeking to address gaps in childcare provision identified in a sufficiency analysis the Childcare Act 2006 Section 8(3) specifies that "a Local Authority may not provide childcare unless it is satisfied that no other person is willing to provide it or, if another person is willing to do so, that in the circumstances it is appropriate for the local authority to provide the childcare."

Since the last report in 2008 the economic climate has changed considerably.

The employment market as a whole is in a state of flux and the childcare market is no exception. Not all employment opportunities are long term for

example summer holiday schemes are able to create jobs during the summer.

“The recession has certainly exacerbated the trend of job losses – between 2008 and 2009, the numbers seeking Job Seekers’ Allowance in Bath and North East Somerset jumped from just over 1,000 people to 2,541 people. Losses have been reported in manufacturing, financial services and construction-related activities in particular.”

Taken from the Economic Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset 2010 to 2026. <http://www.bathandnestsomerset.gov.uk/business/businesssupportadvice/localeconomydevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

Childcare providers in Bath and North East Somerset were asked what the impact of the current economic climate had been on their setting, 53 providers responded stating the following:

| Setting Type | Negative Effect | No Effect | Unsure |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Childminder | 1 | 3 | |
| Day Nursery | 10 | 7 | 1 |
| Pre-School | 9 | 11 | 5 |
| School Nursery Class | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Independent Nursery School | 1 | 2 | |
| % of settings | 42% | 45% | 13% |

1.7. Data sources for this report

Bath and North East Somerset first published a childcare sufficiency report in March 2008. Amongst the points noted in the conclusion to that report were:

- that the report could only provide estimates of the actual numbers of young children
- the number of children requiring childcare and the number of childcare places being provided is in a constant state of flux
- even among those parents who do require childcare, the most popular form of childcare is family members, particularly grandparents, and friends. The accessibility, use and quality of this childcare is unknown but national and local surveys indicate that only the availability of this care allows some parents to return to work.

Since that report was produced several key changes have taken place which impact on the data used and how it has been reported on including:

- a reduction in the Children's Centre areas from 12 in the last report to 11 which was the final objective set for Bath and North East Somerset in Phases one, two and three of the Children's Centre programme. In addition to some boundary changes, Walcot Children's Centre relocating and becoming Parkside Children's Centre
- access to more detailed and accurate birth and child record data, although the data can only be relevant at the time it was collected
- a change of database on which Bath and North East Somerset collects and stores provider details including the number of places available, opening times etc.
- changes in the Ofsted registration system. A degree of flexibility as to how places can be allocated by providers means that some assumptions have to be made in each case as to the age ranges of children taken by each registered provider. Only providers themselves are in reality able to make that decision and that decision is typically driven by demand and market forces
- changes in the different childcare offers by Government, for example the increase in hours in the Early Years Entitlement.

These changes mean that direct comparison between the 2008 report and the 2011 report are difficult, although some common threads may be consistent. This report and its predecessor should therefore be seen in the context of the time they were prepared and published.

1.8. Level of analysis

Analysis in the 2011 report has again been carried out at Children's Centre area. There are now 11 of these as outlined in section 1.7. The rationale for use of this unit size is that they represent areas that are recognised for the delivery of Children's Services by both families and also staff delivering the services.

It is, however, the case that some Children's Centre areas are substantially larger than others as they are calculated using a number of children in each area (Appendix B Children's Centre area map). In some of the larger more rural areas in particular, a large amount of provision is located in one part of the area. This would not be easily accessed by families from another part of the Children's Centre area so a sub division of the sufficiency level has been supplied or could be supplied for closer examination e.g. at ward level.

2. Is childcare accessible?

2.1. The need for childcare

Some key data is available which must be considered in understanding the demand for childcare in the area.

Major employment sectors

The Bath and North East Somerset economy has a predominance of public-sector related, retail, leisure and tourism employment. Public-sector related activities account for 35% of total employment.

http://wwwi/SiteCollectionDocuments/Business/Economic_Strategy.pdf

The following major public sector employers have onsite nurseries and have on occasion also provided other childcare such as summer schemes for older children:

- two of the three Ministry of Defence sites in Bath
- both universities
- the Royal United Hospital
- Norton Radstock College

The City of Bath College has a private nursery provider located within a short walk of the college who have entered into an agreement with them regarding the provision of childcare for students who are eligible for funding.

Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 and Comprehensive Spending Review 2010, and resultant proposed budget and staffing reductions could impact on the sustainability of provision offered on these sites should the numbers of employees reduce.

Employment

- for the three months to June 2010, the employment rate for lone parents with dependent children was 57.2 per cent, up 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier
- the employment rate for married or cohabiting mothers with dependent children was 71.3 per cent, up 0.7 percentage points from a year earlier

- the employment rate for married or cohabiting fathers with dependent children was 89.4 per cent, up 0.7 percentage points from a year earlier
- for people without dependent children the employment rate was 67.3 per cent, down 0.9 percentage points from a year earlier.

Office National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0910.pdf>

- childcare provision creates employment, either in group provision or through self-employment e.g. childminding. A 49 place nursery for example would need to employ a minimum of four staff if they had 32 three and four year old children (staff-to-child regulation ratio 1 adult to 8 children) two staff for eight two year old children (ratio 1 to 4) and three staff for children aged 0-2 (ratio 1 to 3). Most full day nurseries open for a minimum of 50 hours a week so working time legislation requires more than the basic level of staffing to cover breaks and the number of hours allowed in a week. Additional staff may include a nursery manager, administrator, cook and cleaner and, because many of these jobs are part time, a typical nursery may employ up to 25 to 30 people.

<http://economy.swo.org.uk/publications/economic-indicators/sub-regional-economic-indicators/>

Typical working patterns – from parental questionnaire

| | | Partner of respondent | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
| | | Full time Work | Part time work 16 hours or more per week | Part time work less than 16 hours per week | Full time parent | Training/ Studying | Looking for work | Other |
| Questionnaire Respondent | Full time Work | 61 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Part time work 16 hours or more per week | 177 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| | Part time work less than 16 hours per week | 65 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Full time parent | 57 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | Training/Studying | 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Looking for work | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Other | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Typical working patterns – from employers

A total of 132 questionnaires were distributed to employers in Bath and North East Somerset from a list supplied by Business West.

55 responses were received (42%) from a range of different sectors including education, manufacturing, retail, and arts, sports, recreation and tourism. The employers varied in size ranging from 1 – 501 or more employees.

Many different working patterns are available locally, although the most common remains the 8am to 6pm pattern which aligns with the majority of childcare models of provision.

| Working pattern | No. of employers |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8am – 6pm Weekdays | 50 |
| After 6pm Weekdays | 20 |
| Mornings before 8am | 15 |
| Overnight | 12 |
| Weekends | 19 |

24 employers offer more than one working pattern.

Childcare element of the Working Tax Credit

The number of working families benefiting from the childcare element of Working Tax Credit (WTC) as a percentage of the number of working families receiving more than the family element of Child Tax Credit (CTC) finalised awards, HMRC data.

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bath and North East Somerset | 13.68% | 14.76% | 15.80% | 16.77% | 16.82% |
| National Average (England) | 14.48% | 15.85% | 16.95% | 17.76% | 17.98% |

Due to the delay in receiving this data, HMRC also provide snapshot data which is yet to be verified. This data continues to show an increase in the take up of the CTC.

| | July 2009 | Sept 2009 | Dec 2009 | April 2010 | July 2010 |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bath and North East Somerset | 19.64% | 19.23% | 19.64% | 19.30% | 19.64% |
| National Average (England) | 18.73% | 18.61% | 18.54% | 18.54% | 18.60% |

From Monday 25 October 2010, all non-working single parents with a youngest child aged seven to nine years were switched from income support to jobseeker's allowance (JSA). Parents with a youngest child aged two years were moved to the new system in 2008 and those with a youngest aged 10 years were moved over in 2009.

From April 2011 further benefit changes that affect childcare costs will be introduced. They are:

- a reduction in the percentage of childcare costs that parents can claim through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit (WTC) from 80 per cent to its previous 70 per cent level

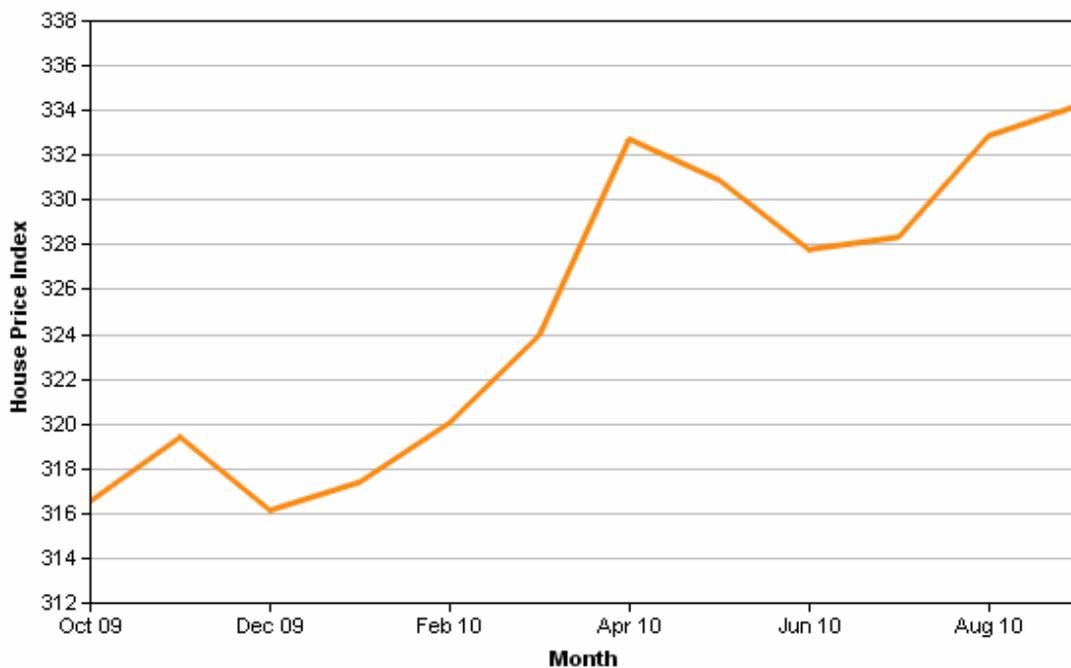
- a change in the eligibility rules so that couples with children must work 24 hours a week between them, with one partner working at least 16 hours a week in order to qualify for the WTC.

Bath and North East Somerset Housing and Wellbeing Strategy 2010-2015

The Housing and Wellbeing Strategy was developed following a review of current and future housing needs across all tenures and types of home for different communities and people.

Although employment levels in Bath and North East Somerset are high, average income is less than that of other areas in the West of England and more of the householder's income is needed to pay for housing than anywhere else in the country other than London. Most people in Bath and North East Somerset are owner occupiers. One in three homes is rented from either private or social landlords (registered providers).

House Price Index - Bath and North East Somerset Council



Source: Land Registry House Price Index

Land Registry's House Price Index is the most accurate independent house price index available.

House Price Index Report - Bath and North East Somerset Council October 2009 – September 2010

| Month | Index | Average Price (£) | Monthly Change (%) | Annual Change (%) | Sales Volume |
|----------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| October 2009 | 316.6 | 216,420 | 1.9 | -0.9 | 233 |
| November 2009 | 319.4 | 218,375 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 200 |
| December 2009 | 316.1 | 216,141 | -1.0 | 1.5 | 291 |
| January 2010 | 317.4 | 217,004 | 0.4 | 4.6 | 120 |
| February 2010 | 320.1 | 218,815 | 0.8 | 7.5 | 114 |
| March 2010 | 324 | 221,490 | 1.2 | 9.9 | 165 |
| April 2010 | 332.7 | 227,480 | 2.7 | 13.2 | 198 |
| May 2010 | 330.9 | 226,228 | -0.6 | 12.1 | 188 |
| June 2010 | 327.8 | 224,109 | -0.9 | 11.6 | 238 |
| July 2010 | 328.3 | 224,483 | 0.2 | 10.1 | 234 |
| August 2010 | 332.9 | 227,576 | 1.4 | 9.4 | - |
| September 2010 | 334.2 | 228,502 | 0.4 | 7.6 | - |

Population trends

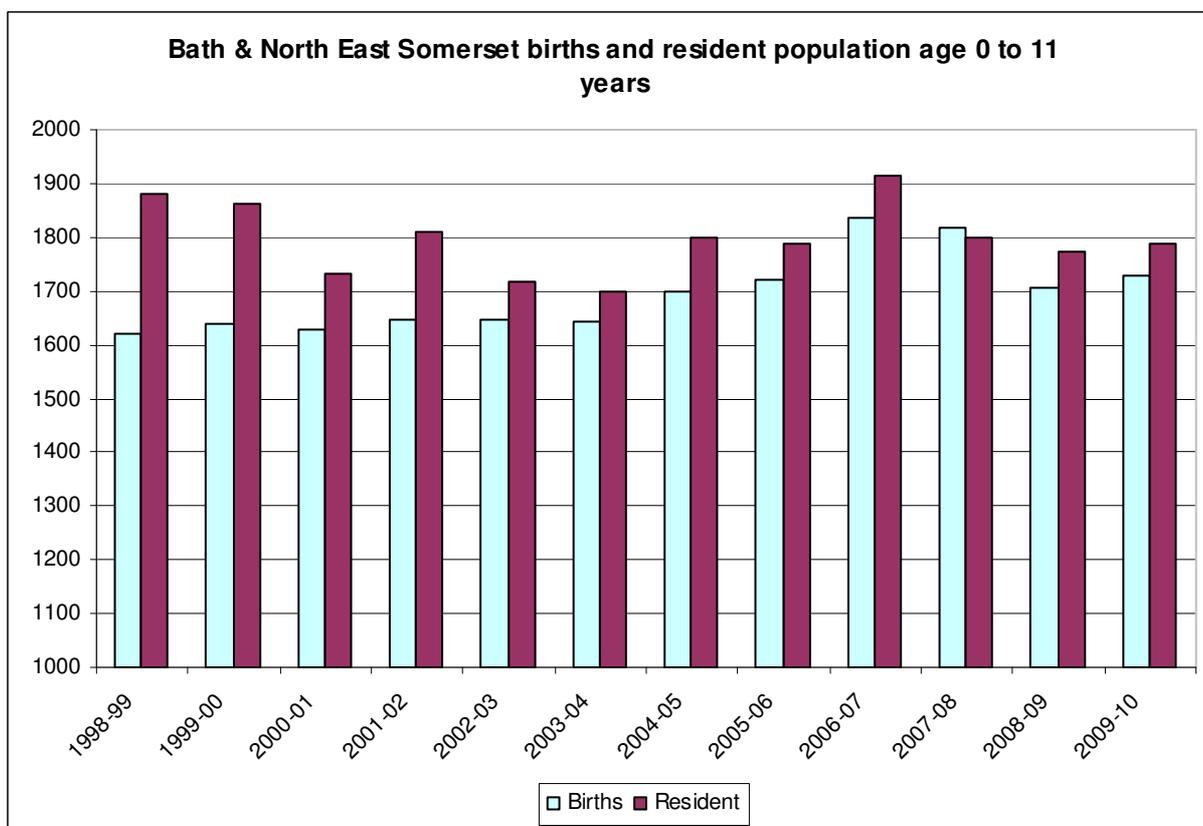
There are approximately 181,300 residents in Bath and North East Somerset of which 89,400 (49.6%) are male and 90,700 (50.4%) are female.

| | |
|---|---------|
| All ages | 180,300 |
| Children 0-15 years old | 30,100 |
| Working age (16-64 male, 16-59 female) | 113,900 |
| Older people (65 and over male, 60 and over female) | 36,200 |

Source: ONS 2008 mid-year estimates, figures rounded

In 2009 population estimates were produced for the area by the Greater London Authority (GLA) using ONS 2006 mid-year estimates and draft Regional Spatial Strategy housing allocations to inform the estimates. These projections were based on an expected growth of 15,500 households by 2026. The estimates suggest that in 2026 the population will be 201,691.

The past decade has seen a steady increase in the number of births each year. In addition there is a significant influx of families from outside Bath and North East Somerset further increasing the demand for childcare.



Source: B&NES PCT November 2010

Regional Spatial Strategy

In July 2010 Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) were formally revoked by central Government. Therefore, the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West that was under preparation, as well as Regional Planning Guidance Note 10 for the South West, now no longer forms part of the development plan for Bath and North East Somerset. The preparation process of this now revoked document, along with the Council's response at various stages is still available on the Council's website.

However, certain major projects in Bath and North East Somerset are set to continue which will increase the population through new housing and therefore the demand for childcare. These developments include the Western Riverside in Bath and Polestar Purnell Printworks site in Paulton. The outline planning permission application for Paulton includes provision for new early year's premises. This is in response to consultation highlighting a shortage of local provision within walking distance and the pressure that would be put on existing providers by a substantial increase in housing. The outline agreement was for a building that will accommodate at least 26 early years children but allows for further expansion should the chosen provider invest in the premises to allow for additional children and/or different age ranges.

In December 2010 Bath and North East Somerset published its draft Core Strategy to replace the RSS. Section 1.26 states “The Core Strategy makes provision for around 11,000 new homes and around 8,700 new jobs. This level of growth excludes “windfall” housing developments. Infrastructure deficiencies, environmental constraints and the results of community engagement together affect the level of growth. The strategy is to locate new development in the most sustainable locations and therefore the priority is to steer growth to brownfield land in urban areas of Bath, Keynsham and the larger settlements in the Somer Valley.” This will clearly have an impact on childcare sufficiency.

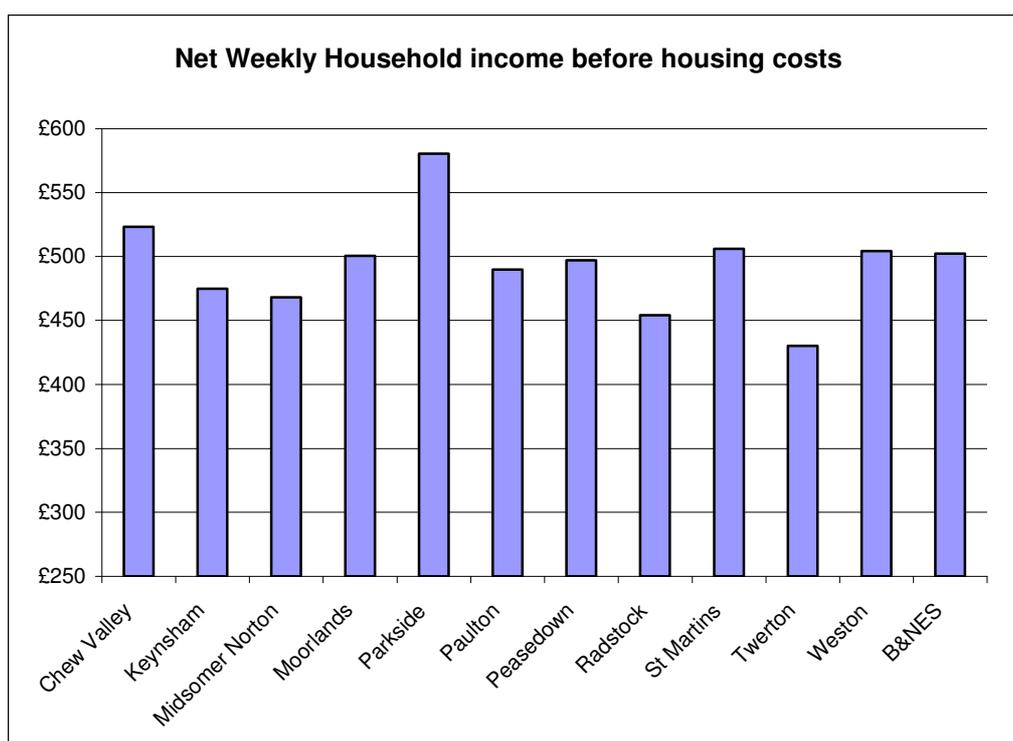
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20Planning/Appendix%203%20-%20Draft%20Core%20Strategy%20Publication%20Version.pdf>

The childcare sufficiency report now links to the “Planning Obligations SPD 2009” in order to help address demand created by new development, particularly in areas where there is already a lack of supply which can only be made greater by further development.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Environment%20and%20Planning/PlanObligationsmaster2.pdf>

Disposable Income

Although net incomes within Bath and North East Somerset are similar to the England average there are areas of relative poverty, particularly within the Twerton and Radstock Children’s Centre Areas.



Future demand for two year old places

The free entitlement to nursery education for economically disadvantaged two year olds will be gradually extended to 15 hours per week. In a speech to the Daycare Trust on 16th November, the Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather, announced the Government's intention to legislate so that disadvantaged two-year-olds receive 15 hours of free early education a week starting from 2013. This will mean an increase in the number of places nationally from 20,000 to around 130,000 over the next four years. The intention is to begin this expansion from 2012-13 to allow local authorities time to plan for the expansion and to start to address issues such as capacity and quality of provision in disadvantaged areas.

Children's Inclusion Fund (CHIF)

The Children's Inclusion Fund (CHIF) is a limited resource held by early years that can be made available to fund childcare and supports children's inclusion in mainstream early years settings. There are two elements of CHIF funding:

Flying start programme

This is for children aged from 2 years whose development and learning is significantly affected by things that prevent them getting the support they need. This includes support from their family and the environment in which they live.

Supporting children with complex health and developmental needs

This is funding for children with complex needs to provide some additional staffing or specialist advice to support the child's development and learning in a mainstream setting in their pre-school year.

From April 2009 - April 2010, 202 children received CHIF funding.

2.2. Supply of childcare

Current Providers as at November 2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Accredited Childminder | 11 |
| Breakfast Club | 25 |
| Childminder ** | 160 |
| Day Nursery | 53 |
| Home Childcarer | 39 |
| Independent Nursery School | 4 |
| Non Registered After-School Care | 1 |
| Non Registered Holiday Scheme | 6 |
| Playgroup or Pre-School | 31 |
| Registered After-School Care | 33 |
| Registered Holiday Scheme | 30 |
| School Nursery Class | 8 |
| Specialist Service Provider | 16 |
| Grand Total | 417 |

** Not all registered childminders currently have children on roll. Of those who currently have children the number of children cared for are well below their registered capacity. Responses to our survey of childminders indicate that childminders work at approximately 42% of their registered Ofsted capacity. Childminders are encouraged to register at full capacity but most choose to run at a lower level.

Proposed Providers as at November 2010

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Breakfast Club | 5 | |
| Childminder ** | 70 | |
| Day Nursery | 6 | Includes 3 Children's Centres |
| Home Childcarer | 1 | |
| Non Registered After-School Care | 1 | |
| Steiner School | 1 | |
| Grand Total | 84 | |

** Not all childminders who have expressed an interest will become registered childminders, 30 is a more realistic estimate.

Distance travelled to settings analysis

An analysis of the distance travelled by children claiming their Early Years Entitlement (EYE) in Bath and North East Somerset for the Spring, Summer and Autumn terms 2009 -10 was undertaken. The EYE data is

the only accurate data source available to us with regards to how far children have to travel to get to settings.

A total of 3299 records were extracted, although some children attended more than one setting, in these cases both records are included.

1806 children travelled less than 1km to attend a setting (55%)

1270 children travelled between 1km and 5km to attend a setting (38%)

167 children travelled between 5km and 10km to attend a setting (5%)

56 children travelled more than 10.1km to attend a setting (2%).

It is important to note that the numbers only represent the Accredited Childminders and Providers who are in receipt of the Early Years Entitlement. Many more children go to non accredited Childminders.

Extended Schools Core offer

The Government set out a core offer of services that they would like all schools to offer access to (in partnership with local authorities and local providers) by 2010:

- a varied menu of activities (including study support, play/recreation, sport, music, arts and crafts and other special interest clubs, volunteering and business and enterprise activities), in a safe place, for primary and secondary schools
- childcare 8:00am - 6:00pm, 48 weeks a year for primary schools
- parenting support including family learning
- swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services such as speech and language therapy, community access to facilities including adult learning, ICT and sports facilities.

100% of Bath and North East Somerset Schools offered the full core offer as at September 2010.

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC)

Following a review of the opportunities available to disabled children; the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families' programme was launched in May 2007 to transform disabled children's services. This programme has supported better access to holiday provision. The programme aims to deliver:

- better access to services and empowerment of families by giving them greater choice and control

- responsive services and timely support
- improved quality and capacity of services.

Short breaks help to support disabled children and young people to engage in play and leisure activities and provide invaluable support for the disabled children/young people and their families. They provide disabled children and young people with the opportunity to experience new relationships, environments and positive activities which provide them with valuable social skills and independence. Families are able to take time out to recharge their batteries or provide additional support so that the whole family can enjoy activities together.

In Bath and North East Somerset, AHDC funding is being used to fill the gaps in provision which have been identified through consultation with young people, parent/carers and professionals in the field. This data has helped to inform where provision should be best placed.

Revenue funding has been used to commission a range of targeted and inclusive short break services, including holiday play schemes, after-school clubs, Saturday clubs and youth clubs. A new scheme has also been set up to enable disabled children to access mainstream provision which has already removed access barriers for 20 individual children and their families. Capital funding has been used to purchase a large amount of equipment, including accessible play equipment, changing facilities, swimming pool hoists, sensory play equipment, accessible bicycles and tricycles and a horticultural polytunnel, all of which support the provision of short breaks.

In addition, funding has been set aside for the delivery of free workforce development training for short break providers. Manual handling for staff has been offered, as well as courses for skill-development in working with autism, in communicating with children, and on the wider inclusion agenda.

There are a number of clubs available to disabled children or children with special educational needs ranging in age from 5 years – 18 years:

- Sports Clubs
- After-school Clubs
 - Trampoline Club
 - Movement and Dance
 - Music Making
 - Martial Arts
 - Cookery
 - Football
- Saturday Clubs

- Youth Clubs
 - Horse Riding
 - Animation
 - Cooking
 - Discos
 - Skiing
 - Drama
 - Nature Walks
- Play Ranger sessions
- Social Activities
- Theatre Group
- Cinema Group
- Skittles Group.

Youth Services available to young people across Bath and North East Somerset

There are a number of youth initiatives and youth centres across Bath and North East Somerset offering a range of activities for young people.

Local Authority Youth Centres/Youth Hubs

- Batheaston
- Peasedown St John Youth Hub
- Radstock Youth Hub
- Time out Drop in centre Riverside, Keynsham
- Southside Youth Hub, Bath
- Riverside Youth Hub, Bath

Voluntary sector project / clubs

- Odd Down, Bath
- Percy Community Centre
- Timsbury Youth club

- Clutton Youth club
- Bath youth for Christ project
- Graffiti Project – Weston, Bath
- Off the Record
- Mentoring Plus
- YMCA Bath.

Youth Projects

- Bath Detached Team – Foxhill, Odd Down, Twerton, and City Centre
- North East Somerset Detached Team – Pensford, Chew Magna, Clutton and Bishop Sutton
- REACH group for young people aged 14 years – 21 years who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. (Reach is part of an organisation called EACH - Educational action challenging homophobia)
- Riverside Kayaking, London Road Bath
- DAFBY (Democratic Action for Bath and North East Somerset Youth)
- YAGA (Youth Action Group for Access)
- Young Inspectors project.

Further information is available from the Family Information Service and from 1BigData Base (www.1bigdatabase.org.uk).

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Award is for all young people aged 14-25. It gives opportunities for personal achievement, community and social involvement, adventure and widening of interests. This is run in a variety of youth hubs and schools across the area.

2.3. Parents' views about sufficiency

A questionnaire was sent to over 2000 families living throughout Bath and North East Somerset who had children aged from birth to 19 years. This was also available online. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix G.

Of these 525 questionnaires were returned, and a breakdown of the responses is as follows:

Parents' views on location of childcare

| | 1 = Very Poor 4 = Excellent | | | | % scoring 3 or 4 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| | Score 1 | Score 2 | Score 3 | Score 4 | |
| Activities after-school | 1 | 1 | 10 | 49 | 97% |
| After-school Club | 3 | 10 | 16 | 53 | 84% |
| Breakfast Clubs | 0 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 100% |
| Childminder | 2 | 0 | 11 | 36 | 96% |
| Crèche | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Family Link Carer | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 75% |
| Holiday Club | 4 | 9 | 24 | 28 | 80% |
| Nanny/Au Pair | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 94% |
| Outreach | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Personal Assistant | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 64% |
| Pre-School | 3 | 14 | 40 | 77 | 87% |

This demonstrates that families are generally happy with the location of the provider that they use.

Number of families by when childcare required:

| Term Time Only | Normal School Hours | Before School | After-school | School holidays only | School holidays part time | School holidays full time | All Year | Evenings | Overnight |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 102 | 62 | 68 | 151 | 28 | 115 | 23 | 158 | 37 | 18 |

Note: Some families may have chosen more than one category

Parents were asked if childcare issues had ever prevented them from working:

Yes 132 (25%) **No** 382 (73%)

It is important to note that this question may be interpreted in various ways. Being prevented from working could range from not going to the office for a day due to the provider not being able to take the child, through to not accepting a job offer due to lack of available childcare.

An analysis of 99 of the 132 replies where comments had been made by the parents saying childcare issues had prevented them from working is contained in the table below: -

| Working but not as would like | | Total | 51 | 9.7% |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Due to: | Cost | | 15 | 2.9% |
| | Hours | | 19 | 3.6% |
| Lack of: | Out of School | | 13 | 2.5% |
| | Early Years | | 4 | 0.8% |
| Not Working | | Total | 48 | 9.1% |
| Due to: | Cost | | 24 | 4.6% |
| | Hours | | 9 | 1.7% |
| Lack of: | Out of School | | 9 | 1.7% |
| | Early Years | | 6 | 1.1% |

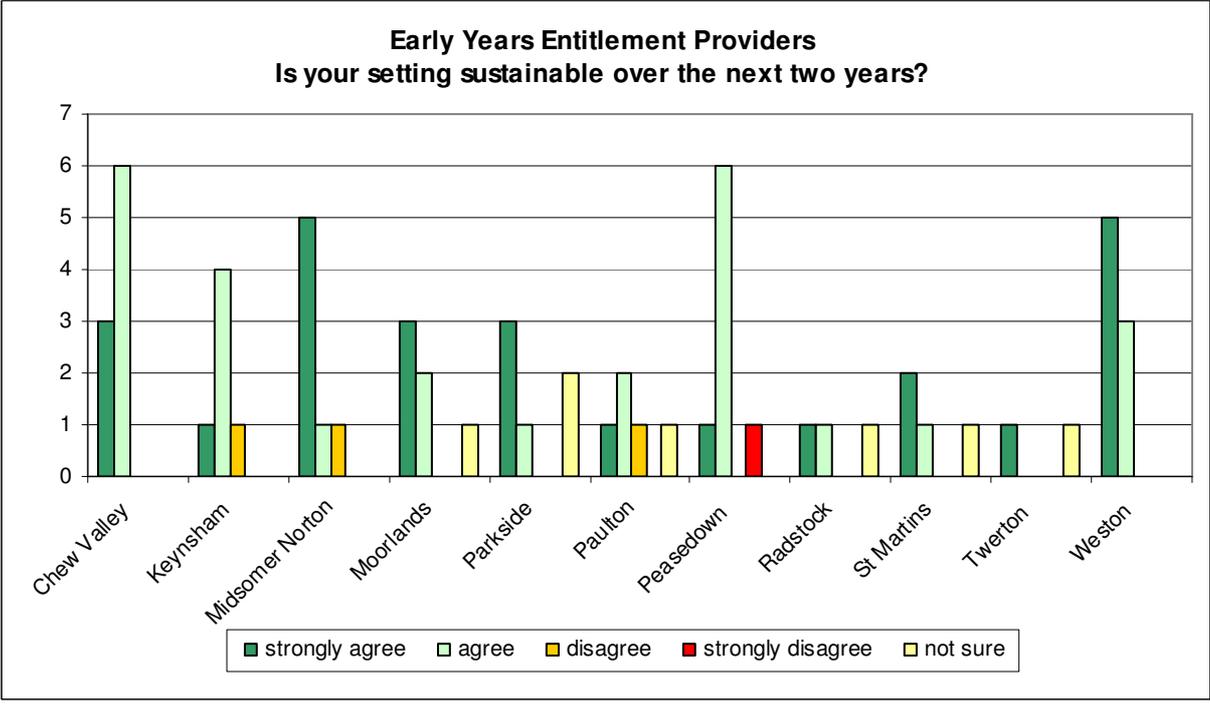
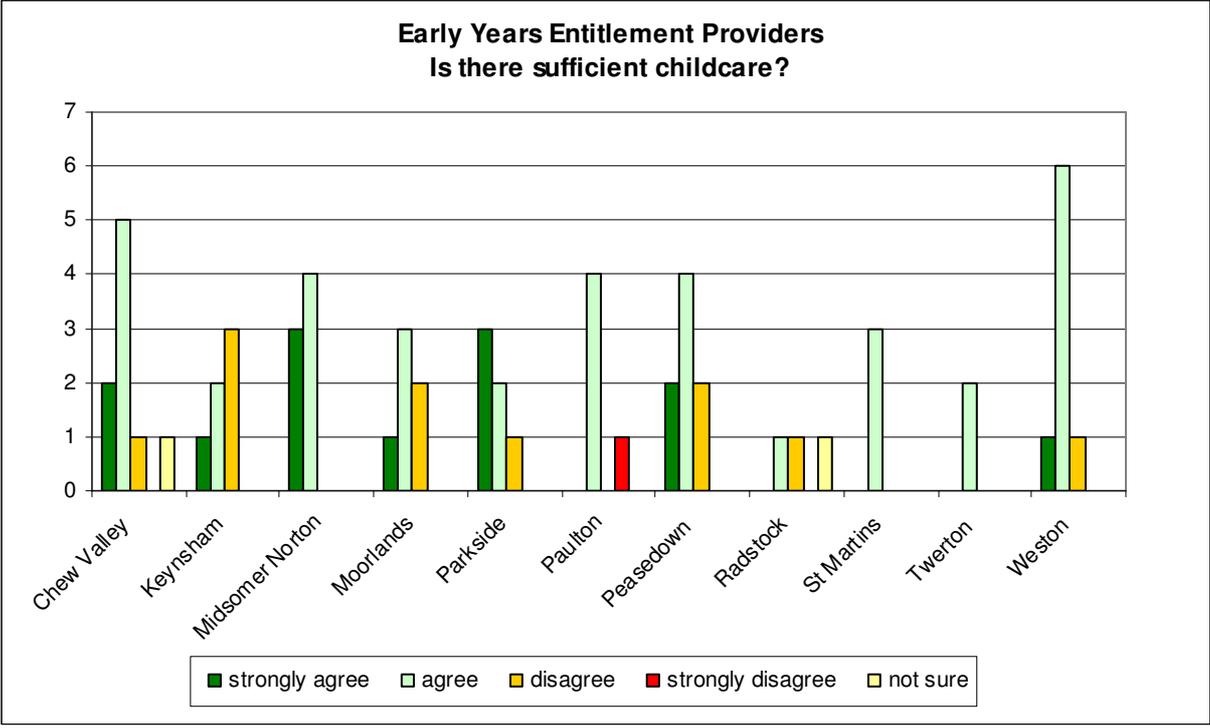
Cost was the biggest factor in nearly 40% of the responses to the parents being affected, although it is only 7.5% of total responses, with the hours available being the next biggest barrier. The difference between the lack of out of school being more of a challenge than early years may be as a result of the early years market sector being more developed and wide spread than the out of school market. With all schools now offering the extended services offer and better signposting to parents of childcare now and in the future may show a narrowing of this gap by the 2014 report.

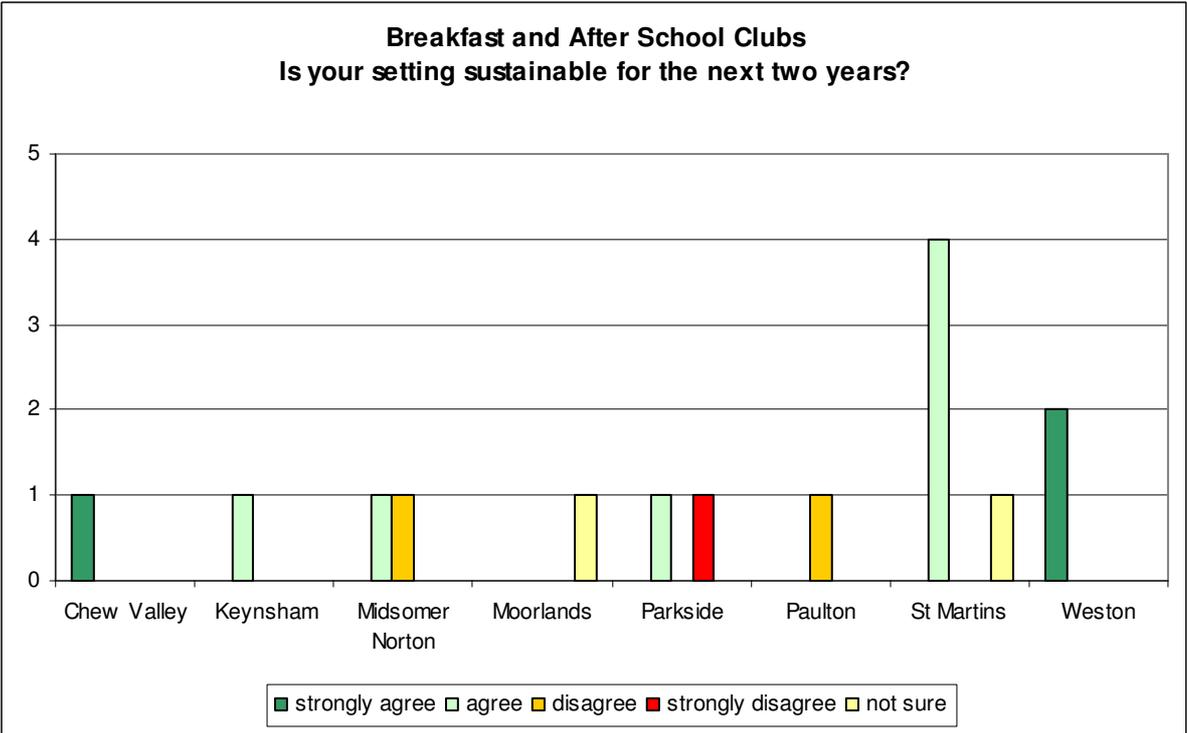
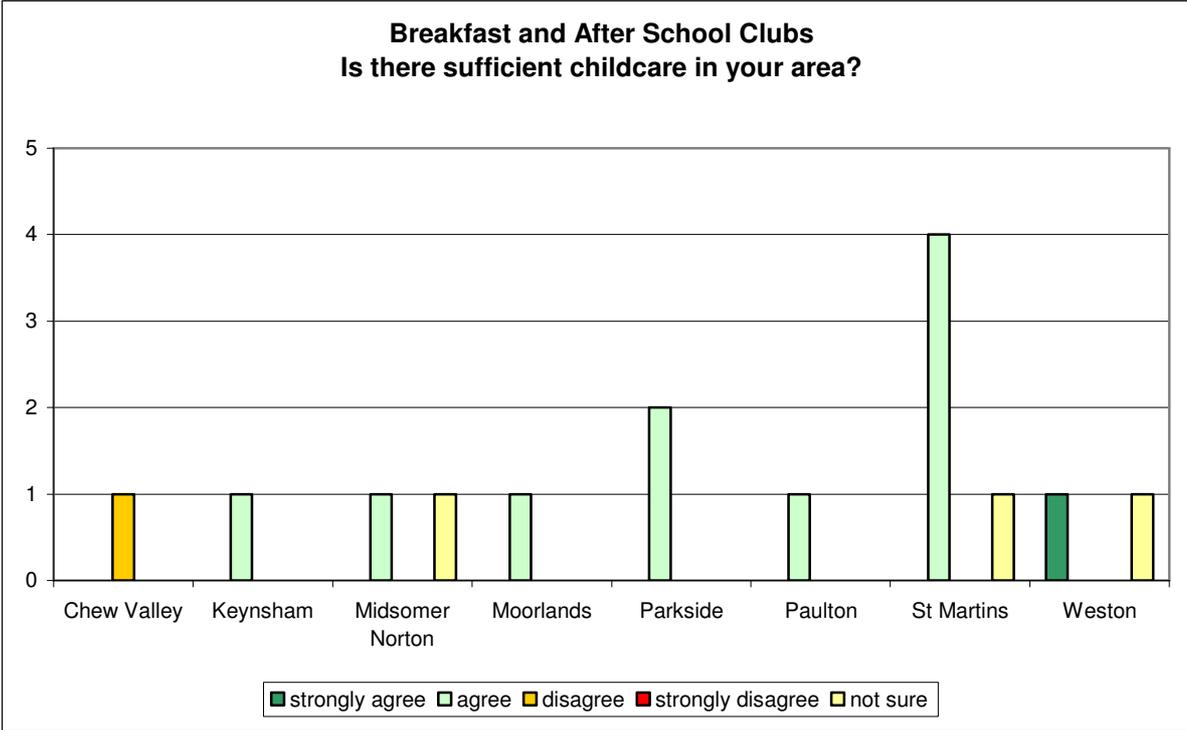
2.4. Providers' views about sufficiency

A questionnaire was sent to all settings eligible to offer the Early Years Entitlement, registered childminders, and other registered providers. A total of 66 responses were received.

Providers were asked if they thought that there was sufficient childcare in their local area.

Only one provider (a pre-school) based in Paulton strongly disagreed with the statement. Paulton was identified as an area of under-supply in the last sufficiency assessment. A new Children's Centre is currently under construction in this area which will provide a 20 place nursery with the associated family support services. Further development of the Polestar Purnell Printworks site will also provide a 26 place early years setting.





Although the results of the consultation demonstrate that largely providers are confident of their sustainability over the next two years, only limited conclusions can be made due to the low numbers of returns, especially with regards to the out of school clubs.

Children living in rural areas

18% of children in England live in rural areas. One in five rural children is aged between 0 and four years old.² In comparison 25% of children within Bath and North East Somerset live in rural areas and one in four of these are aged between 0 and four years old.

500,000 children in England rural communities live in income poverty (once housing costs have been accounted for)⁴

A study of rural Children's Centres, commissioned by the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) in 2009, found that more than a quarter of parents interviewed did not feel that the childcare available locally adequately met their needs. Childcare was described by some parents as either too costly, or not sufficiently matched to their working hours or other needs. A shortage of crèches and of childminders was highlighted by many.¹⁵ Finding suitable childcare to enable parents to work was reported as a barrier by many of the families interviewed.

The recent CRC update shows that almost 16% of 0-4 year olds in England live in rural areas, but less than 13% of Children's Centres are based in those areas. On average, a rural Children's Centre serves 1,218 children compared to an urban centre which serves 959 children.¹⁶

² CRC (2010), State of the countryside update: Children and education services

⁴ CRC (2010), State of the countryside update: Children and education services

¹⁵ CRC (2009), Insights from users and providers of Children's Centres in rural communities: Summary report

¹⁶ CRC (2010), State of the countryside update: Children and education services

2.5. Employers' views about sufficiency

A total of 132 questionnaires were sent to employers in the Bath and North East Somerset from a list provided by Business West.

Of these 55 responses were received (42%) from a range of different sectors including education, manufacturing, retail, arts, sports, recreation and tourism.

The employers varied in size ranging from 1 – 501 or more employees.

All employers except one offered some level of flexibility in their working patterns, breakdown as follows:

Flexible working

| | No. of employers | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Flexi time | 21 | |
| Paternity/Adoption leave | 47 | |
| Part time during school times | 29 | |
| Phased return after maternity leave | 22 | |
| Term time only contracts | 19 | |
| Working from home | 20 | |
| N/A | 2 | |
| Other | 9 | Evaluated on individual merits |

Problems caused by lack of childcare

| | No. of employers |
|--|------------------|
| Increase in sickness/absence | 9 |
| Job offers turned down by potential recruits | 2 |
| Staff unable to return to work following maternity leave | 5 |
| Working time/training opportunities lost | 4 |
| None of the above | 38 |

Impact on business

| | No. of employers |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Not significant | 25 |
| Slightly significant | 9 |
| Significant | 3 |
| Very significant | 0 |

Although the employers have stated that they experience some issues linked with a lack of childcare, this had limited impact on the business. It is important to note that informal childcare may be included in the figures above which the local authority has no control over.

Childcare help offered by employers

| | No. of employers |
|--|-------------------------|
| Childcare Vouchers | 36 |
| Help claiming child tax credits | 3 |
| Information about Family Information Service | 6 |

Access to a childcare voucher scheme is the most popular help offered by the employers who took part in the consultation. More details of this scheme can be found on page 38.

3. Is childcare affordable?

3.1. Parents' views about costs

In providing this analysis we should bear in mind that in asking people their views on cost there may be a tendency to consider it too expensive whatever the price, perceptions about expense are very much that, perceptions.

Parents' views on the cost of childcare

| | 1 = Poor value 4 = Excellent value | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| | Score 1 | Score 2 | Score 3 | Score 4 | % scoring 3 or 4 |
| Activities after-school | 1 | 10 | 22 | 29 | 82% |
| After-school Club | 4 | 30 | 33 | 15 | 59% |
| Breakfast Clubs | 2 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 60% |
| Childminder | 2 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 68% |
| Crèche | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Family Link Carer | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 75% |
| Holiday Club | 10 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 54% |
| Nanny/Au Pair | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 56% |
| Outreach | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Personal Assistant | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 33% |
| Pre-School | 9 | 36 | 37 | 44 | 64% |

Comments taken from parental questionnaire responses

Free childcare for 2 year olds is unfair because my husband works and the benefit we receive and the location we live in my child misses out as we are not entitled to it even though we CANNOT afford to pay nursery fees, so we have to stick to playgroup.

Breakfast club hugely expensive! £4.50 for the first child and £3.20 for the 2nd child, £7.70 per day for 45 minutes.

Cost rather than availability is the problem.

Most of my wage will go on childcare 65-70%. This was up to 95% when both children were of pre-school age.

Awareness of benefits to families

Breakdown of the 525 questionnaire responses received:

| | No of families aware of the benefit | Qualified for | Used | % |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|------|
| Child Tax Credit | 443 | 288 | 217 | 75% |
| Working Families Tax Credit | 383 | 138 | 105 | 76% |
| Early Years Entitlement | 259 | 136 | 119 | 88% |
| Train to Gain | 69 | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Care to Learn | 46 | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Carers Allowance | 157 | 25 | 14 | 56% |
| Disability Living Allowance | 194 | 50 | 31 | 62% |
| Employers Childcare Voucher Scheme | 227 | 75 | 60 | 80% |

The responses received from the parental questionnaires do not correlate with the information sourced from other research. Bath and North East Somerset are above the national average for the take up of childcare element of the child tax credit. Outreach workers in Children's Centres work with families to ensure that they are aware of and are supported in accessing the Tax Credits due to them.

3.2. Average cost of childcare

All Early Years Entitlement eligible providers were sent a questionnaire asking for details of their current price structure, how they thought their prices would change over the next 12 months, and what the impact of the current economic climate had been on their business. Fifty three responses were received and a breakdown is as follows:

| Setting Type | Hourly Rates per hour ** | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Minimum | Maximum | Average |
| Childminder | £3.40 | £5.00 | £4.10 |
| Day Nursery | £3.15 | £5.50 | £4.22 |
| Pre-School | £2.00 | £5.27 | £3.55 |
| School Nursery Class | £2.83 | £3.85 | £3.23 |
| Independent Nursery School | £3.70 | £6.77 | £5.36 |

** Where no hourly rate was stated in the response, the hourly rate has been calculated from the daily rate divided by the number of hours open.

Future costs

Providers were asked how they felt their prices would change over the next 12 months.

| Setting Type | Increase | No change | Undecided | No response |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Childminder | 4 | | | |
| Day Nursery | 15 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Pre-School | 10 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| School Nursery Class | 2 | | | |
| Independent Nursery School | 3 | | 1 | |

Comment taken from parental questionnaire responses

Holiday clubs should be regulated more on cost, as some clubs charge excessive fees.

Current economic climate

Providers were asked what the impact of the current economic climate had been (if any) on their business.

| Setting Type | Negative Effect | No Effect | Unsure |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Childminder | 1 | 3 | |
| Day Nursery | 10 | 7 | 1 |
| Pre-School | 9 | 11 | 5 |
| School Nursery Class | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Independent Nursery School | 1 | 2 | |
| % of settings | 42% | 45% | 13% |

The reasons stated ranged from fewer children attending in general to families only using the free entitlement. Some providers are expecting the changes to the Working Tax Credit and Childcare Tax Credit thresholds to have an impact on the numbers of children attending.

3.3. Helping parents with the cost of childcare

Childcare help offered by employers

| No of Employees | Type of Support Provided | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Childcare vouchers | Help with claiming tax credits | Information about FIS | None of the options listed |
| None (Self Employed) | 1 | | 1 | |
| 1 – 10 employees | | | | 2 |
| 11 – 100 employees | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| 101 – 500 employees | 22 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 500+ employees | 1 | | | |

Access to a childcare voucher scheme is the most popular help offered by the employers who took part in the consultation. More details of this scheme can be found on page 38.

Comments taken from parental questionnaire responses

There needs to be more help available to finance 0-3 years for parents whose only motivation for using childcare is to work. An easy way to do this would be through the employers childcare vouchers e.g the first so many hours for free?

Child tax credit is a nightmare for us. Due to admin errors when this was set up, we owe £0000s which is currently in dispute. Because of this I can't claim childcare vouchers (which would be financially better for us).

I need more childcare but it is not affordable.

I need more help to keep me working. Childcare is very expensive and I have to work full time to pay our bills.

I think quality childcare is too expensive. I work part time in a well paid job, but still could not afford to pay for childcare. Accessibility (and available opening times) where I live is also a problem.

It is frustrating that we get limited help with childcare costs. We work full time and pay a fortune in tax, but fall outside boundaries. We spend approx

£1000/month on childcare.

Make childcare free if you insist on making parents work.

Early Years Entitlement (EYE)

“The free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is at the heart of the Government’s vision for all children to have access to high quality early years provision that helps them reach their full potential. It offers universal free provision from the term following a child’s third birthday up until they reach compulsory school age, for every child, irrespective of background or family circumstances. From September 2010, the free entitlement equates to 15 hours per week, over a minimum 38 weeks of the year, with flexible access to meet parents’ needs.”

The EYE is a significant contribution towards childcare bills for parents with 3 and 4 year old children. It provides up to 570 hours a year free entitlement at Ofsted registered Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) and School nurseries until the child moves into reception.

Two year old Early Education Pilot

Bath and North East Somerset has been part of a national pilot scheme funding a cohort of 50 eligible two year old children to attend an Ofsted rated good or outstanding nursery in their area. The pilot has been limited to children who live in one of the areas listed in national statistics as the most disadvantaged in the county. Like the 3 and 4 year old entitlement, there are certain eligible start and finish dates and at the moment this is limited to a maximum of 380 hours per year.

The current pilot is not directly aimed at returning parents to work but enabling two year old children to experience provision, so that they are ready to take up their full 3 and 4 year old offer. Family support from local Children’s Centres is also part of the pilot offer.

Future expansion of the two year old pilot

As part of the Spending Review the Government announced that the free entitlement to 15 hours of nursery education will be gradually extended to every disadvantaged two year old. This expansion will be funded by an additional investment of around £300m by the end of the Spending Period 2014 -15. This will mean an increase in the number of places nationally from 20,000 to around 130,000 over the next four years. The intention is to begin this expansion from 2012-13 to allow local authorities time to plan and to start to address issues such as capacity and quality of provision in disadvantaged areas.

In a speech to the Daycare Trust on 16th November 2010, the Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather, announced the

Government's intention to legislate so that disadvantaged two-year-olds receive 15 hours of free early education a week starting from 2013.

Childcare Tax Credits

Families who work and pay for childcare can apply for tax credits to help with costs. This can include childcare provided by nurseries, childminders, foster carers, out of school clubs and nannies.

Families who qualify include:

- lone parents working 16 hours or more a week
- couples working 16 hours or more a week.

Childcare costs that cannot be claimed for include:

- the amount an employer pays towards childcare costs - either in cash or in vouchers, this includes vouchers in return for a reduction in pay (known as a 'salary sacrifice')
- childcare costs met by a local authority for early learning or nursery education for a child, an example of this could be where the local authority in England meets the cost of the free Early Years Entitlement for children aged three and four
- payments from the Government towards childcare costs e.g. certain types of student or someone starting work.

Even with the above in mind, families can claim for any childcare costs that they actually pay for themselves. So for example if an employer pays only some of the childcare cost in vouchers, they can make a claim for the rest of the cost. There is an online calculator to help families work out if they are better off using an employer's childcare voucher scheme or not.

How much is the Childcare Tax Credit worth?

Families can currently get help with up to 80 per cent of their childcare costs for working a minimum of 16 hours a week - subject to a maximum limit in the amount of childcare costs they can claim each week.

If they pay childcare for:

- one child, the maximum childcare cost they can claim is £175 a week
- two or more children, the maximum cost they can claim is £300 a week.

This means that the maximum help they can get for childcare through tax credits is:

- £140 a week for one child
- £240 a week for two or more children.

The actual amount paid will depend on their income - the lower their income, the higher the tax credit received.

From April 2011 changes have been introduced which increase the qualifying limit of hours worked to a minimum of 24 and the maximum limit paid will be reduced to 70 per cent of cost based on the £175 or £300 maximum. This increase in the minimum number of working hours may well impact on the demand for childcare (Universal Credit: a new approach to welfare - childcare proposals published 11/11/2010.)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-credit-full-document.pdf>

This white paper also outlines further proposals although the first bullet point listed has already become a statutory change as outlined above:

- ensuring that parents continue to receive financial support with the costs of childcare is crucial if they are to have an incentive to work. Parents in receipt of Working Tax Credits can currently receive additional support through the Childcare Element which, from April 2011, will pay up to 70 per cent of costs up to a maximum of £175 a week for one child and £300 for two or more children.
- we recognise that people often find the current childcare element confusing. The need to calculate average awards can be particularly complicated. Covering only a proportion of costs and paying this as part of the overall benefit award can cause uncertainty about how much support parents receive. The new system provides an opportunity to improve and simplify the way support is offered but we need to ensure that it remains fair, affordable and targeted to those most in need. Universal Credit: a new approach to welfare
- the Government would welcome views from key stakeholders and will work with them to establish how support for childcare could best be delivered as part of, or alongside, Universal Credit. In developing options, the Government will take account of the evidence collected from recent pilots designed to test different ways of accessing the childcare element of Tax Credits
- as a minimum, it would be feasible to pay an additional element for childcare on top of the basic Universal Credit award, at similar rates to those currently offered, but to simplify the way costs are calculated and support is paid. If information about costs was

collected through a self-service process this could improve the timeliness of support and reduce the scope for under and overpayments.

But there may be better approaches, for example:

- providing support for childcare through a voucher or discount system, rather than as part of the Universal Credit award;
- recognising childcare through an additional earnings disregard rather than an additional payment
- help with childcare for people on Universal Credit would be restricted to those in work. The aim would be to allocate some of the current support to those working fewer than 16 hours, so that all types of work are rewarded.

Childcare Voucher Schemes

Childcare Voucher Schemes are a “salary sacrifice” scheme that may be offered by an employer to enable employees to obtain care for a child who:

- is a child or stepchild of the employee and is maintained (wholly or partly) at the employee’s expense, or
- is resident with the employee and is a person in respect of whom the employee has parental responsibility.

Vouchers can be used to “pay” for most types of childcare, a child qualifies up to 1st September following their 15th birthday, or 1st September following their 16th birthday if they are disabled. The vouchers can be offered as payment to all OFSTED registered childcare providers who have joined with the scheme.

These may include:

- Childminders
- Home Child carers
- Pre-schools and Playgroups
- Day nurseries
- Breakfast Clubs/After-school Clubs
- Holiday Play Schemes.

By sacrificing part of their salary each week (to a maximum of £55) or each month (to a maximum of £243) before they pay tax and National Insurance the employee makes a saving at their highest possible contribution rate and the employer also makes a saving on their national insurance contribution. From April 2011 all new entrants into these schemes will only benefit from a saving at the basic rate of tax/National Insurance.

YourTime! - Aims of the Project

- to deliver the Government’s extended services disadvantage subsidy to all eligible pupils
- to offer a variety of activities for all children in Bath and North East Somerset during two weeks of the summer holidays
- to promote this scheme to all children and to subsidise the cost using YourTime! funding
- to reflect the numbers of children in receipt of Free School Meals across the authority

Over 13 days, the scheme delivered 43 workshops for children aged five to 14 years. These workshops were delivered in three secondary schools - Norton Hill, Ralph Allen and Chew Valley. The activities catered for a wide variety of children of differing abilities.

The activities included:

| Activity | Score | |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| | Brilliant | OK |
| Funky Art for 9 year olds and above | 94% | 6% |
| ReFab Art for 5 to 8 year olds | 86% | 14% |
| ARTiculate for all ages | 98% | 2% |
| Little Stars Football for 5 to 8 year olds | 92% | 8% |
| Computer Xplorers for all ages | 84% | 16% |
| Skateboarding for all ages | 94% | 6% |
| Street dance for over 8s | 98% | 2% |

298 children attended the activities made up of 140 girls and 158 boys. Children from 56 different schools in Bath and North East Somerset attended.

Parent responses

What was the reason for encouraging your child to attend?

| | YourTime! subsidised place | Non YourTime! subsidised place |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| To take part in an exciting activity | 50% | 33% |
| To develop a skill | 50% | 46% |
| To enable you to work | 0% | 46% |
| To give you a break from the children | 33% | 13% |

The responses demonstrate that alongside enabling parents to work, socialisation and developing skills are just as important.

4. Is childcare of good quality?

4.1. Maintaining and improving quality

Extensive longitudinal research in childcare has determined that the quality of the childcare offer is crucial to it benefiting children, and that poor quality provision has little impact or benefit for the children attending. It is critical that if the gap is to be narrowed between the achievement of the most advantaged children and the levels attained by the most disadvantaged that, in particular, the most disadvantaged receive the highest quality childcare offer available. This is not just in early years and pre-school provision, but in after-school and holiday provision in addition to their school provision.

4.2. Evidence of quality

4.2.1. Parents' views about quality of care

| Setting type | 1 = Very Poor 4 = Excellent | | | | Scoring 3 or 4 % |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| | Score 1 | Score 2 | Score 3 | Score 4 | |
| After-school Club | 0 | 13 | 22 | 47 | 84% |
| Breakfast Club | 0 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 89% |
| Childminder | 0 | 4 | 11 | 35 | 92% |
| Crèche | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Family Link Carer | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 100% |
| Holiday Club | 1 | 11 | 28 | 24 | 84% |
| Nanny/Au Pair | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 100% |
| Outreach | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| Personal Assistant | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 70% |
| Pre-School | 0 | 6 | 27 | 100 | 95% |
| Activities after-school (e.g. sports clubs) | 1 | 9 | 17 | 39 | 85% |

Comment taken from parental questionnaire responses

Childcare is expensive, but I find it excellent at the after school club.

4.2.2. Children's views about quality

To gather the views of children using childcare provision, a series of informal consultations took place within early years settings, holiday play schemes, after-school clubs, breakfast clubs and at a play event.

Children were asked what they liked and didn't like about the setting, and what they would change about the setting.

52 children took part in consultations at their out of school club, over 20 gave their views at a play event and 284 children evaluated the YourTime! activities.

The children who took part in the survey mainly liked to be outside and making dens and shelters, although computer equipment proved popular with many of the children. When asked if they would change anything, many children stated that they wouldn't change anything. Of those that would change something, more equipment and colour on the walls was a theme.

The children were asked about the toys and resources that were available to them, and many liked craft activities and making junk models. Older children enjoyed talking with friends in the quiet corner.

When asked what they would change about the resources or toys, the children asked for more outdoor games and more computer equipment and televisions. An after-school pet was also requested.

4.2.3. OFSTED's views

76 Providers were inspected between 1st October 2009 and 30th September 2010.

Summary of outcomes

| Provider Type | Outstanding | Good | Satisfactory | Inadequate |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Childcare on Non-domestic premises | 9 | 25 | 2 | 3** |
| Childminder | 4 | 18 | 12 | 0 |

Additionally three providers were assessed against the voluntary register

** two of the three providers judged as inadequate have since been re-evaluated and now have a rating of good. The third provider has since closed.

4.3. Maintaining and improving quality

The Early Years and Extended Services team includes employees who are specifically tasked to maintain and improve the quality of the Early Years Education and Childcare on offer throughout the authority.

Currently five full time equivalent (FTE) staff are qualified teachers focusing particularly on the quality of the Early Years Education. Three FTEs are special educational needs co-ordinators supporting all Early Years providers and over 2,000 children. Three FTEs focus on supporting 160 childminders and two FTEs provide advice on the Ofsted welfare requirement to providers of childcare from birth – 19 years.

In Bath and North East Somerset the majority of childcare provision is delivered by the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sectors. 93% of providers offering the Early Years Entitlement are from the PVI sector, and 90% of the total Early Years Entitlement places were supplied by the PVI sector.

Benefits of quality and specific/targeted 'practices' in pre-school

- high quality pre-schooling is related to better intellectual and social/behavioural development for children
- settings that have staff with higher qualifications have higher quality scores and their children make more progress
- quality indicators include warm interactive relationships with children, having a trained teacher as manager and a good proportion of trained teachers on the staff enhances this
- where settings view educational and social development as complementary and equal in importance, children make better all round progress.

Capital Investment Programme

Between April 2008 and March 2011 capital funding was made available to Local Authorities for investment in Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare provision under a grant programme entitled Quality and Access. Funding was allocated to providers as indicated below:

Universal Programmes

- allocation of ICT equipment (computers, printers, cameras, toys etc)
- outdoor equipment, block play, equal opportunity resources and books.

Early Years Entitlement changes funding

- five settings received funding to allow them to improve their settings
- one setting is now able to accommodate two year olds.

Childcare quality and access grants

Four settings received funding to allow them to improve their settings, and to enable them to offer the 15 hours per week Early Years Entitlement.

The improvements covered areas such as:

- re-landscaping and refurbishment of outside spaces
- disabled building access - parking, ramps, doors etc
- windows
- canopies and gazebos to provide shelter so that children can access the outdoors at all times
- renovation/refurbishment/adaptation of toilet facilities
- refurbishment of indoor and outdoor storage.

A further 21 settings received small amounts of funding for improvements.

Provider Staff Qualifications

The annual staff qualification audit of registered day nurseries and pre-schools received 599 responses (from 906 Practitioners) which represented 66% of the workforce.

The breakdown of qualifications is as follows:

- 81 Practitioners at a level six qualification (14%)
- 447 Practitioners at a level three qualification (74%)
- 71 Practitioners at a level two qualification (12%) however 22 of these are studying for further qualifications (31%)
- 17 Practitioners at level six categorised as leading the practice (3%)
- 12 Practitioners at level three categorised as leading the practice, (12%) however, eight of these are studying towards further qualifications (67%).

Continued Professional Development

A large number of continued professional development courses are offered to all practitioners ranging from day nursery staff to out of school staff each year. Last year (2009-10) there were 195 courses with a total of 3,231 attendances from 165 different early years settings.

Advice and funding opportunities are available to individuals wanting to gain additional qualifications. In 2009-10, 73 practitioners studied for a qualification whilst having their fees subsidised:

- nine at level four
- 40 at level three
- five at level two
- 17 Foundation Degree in Early Years
- two 'other' qualifications

51% of integrated day care settings delivering early years have a Qualified Teacher or Early Years Professional leading practice in the setting.

4.4. Monitoring quality

Early Years Quality Improvement Support Programme EYQISP

All providers must demonstrate that they have a system of continuing professional development and training for staff and must have in place a written and current staff development plan.

The National Code sets out the requirement that Local Authorities will establish a transparent, consistent process for identifying the highest quality providers across all sectors, by using quality improvement and support programmes to categorise the quality of Providers in their area. The purpose of assessing quality is to ensure that professional support can be provided which is appropriate to the needs of the provider, in order to drive up quality so that each child derives maximum benefit from their entitlement.

Process for categorisation for existing providers:

Providers have the opportunity to assess themselves against the Bath and North East Somerset 'Improving quality and outcomes in the Early Years Foundation Stage' tool in order to complete self assessment.

The Early Years and Extended Services Team will place each provider into a support category taking into account all available evidence. The overall category for each section will be a best fit judgement, based on the distribution of highlighted statements.

Quality in group based settings for children over five years of age

Providers are supported by an Extended Services Childcare Development Officer who will carry out an induction process with all new providers. Most providers will receive an annual visit which will include creating and updating a development plan, the welfare and childcare requirements, and other national legislation (such as employment law). In 2011 providers will be involved in a comprehensive categorisation process.

Quality childminders

Four childminding co-ordinators and a childminding officer work with all childminders within Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES). They offer advice, support, training, guidance and home visits to develop and support quality childcare for prospective, new and established childminders.

Childminders and childminding co-ordinators are linked to Children's Centre Services and facilitate and develop groups for childminders, to support positive outcomes for children. Each childminding co-ordinator covers a different geographical area of the authority.

A new childminding network has been set up in B&NES, with three levels of childminders. All childminders registered with Ofsted in B&NES will be part of the B&NES network as Level one childminders at a minimum. Childminders may progress to become level two or level three childminders if the criteria are met.

5. Perceived, actual and potential gaps in childcare places

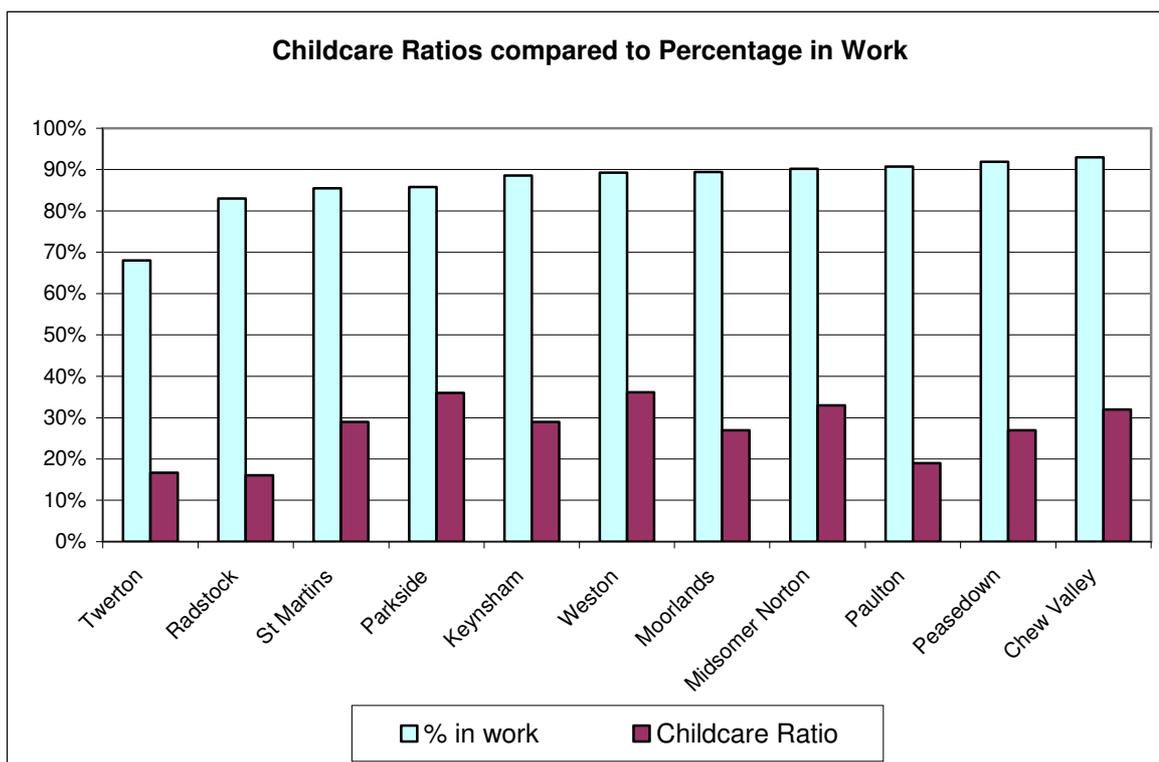
5.1. Childcare in general

Childcare Ratio Analysis

| Children's Centre | Ofsted Capacity | | | | | | Chosen Capacity | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2010 | | | 2007/8 | | | 2010 | |
| | Childcare places | 2010 Number of children 0-11 | Ratio of childcare places to children | 2007/08 Childcare Places | 2007/08 Number of children 0 -11 | 2007/08 Report | Childcare places | Ratio of childcare places to children |
| Chew Valley | 598 | 1910 | 0.31 | 537 | 2348 | 0.23 | 472 | 0.25 |
| Keynsham | 684 | 2386 | 0.29 | 744 | 2581 | 0.29 | 544 | 0.23 |
| Midsomer Norton | 674 | 2015 | 0.33 | 688 | 2277 | 0.30 | 546 | 0.27 |
| Moorlands | 516 | 1885 | 0.27 | 566 | 2160 | 0.26 | 457 | 0.24 |
| Parkside | 931 | 2552 | 0.36 | 467 | 1346 | 0.35 | 887 | 0.35 |
| Paulton | 283 | 1491 | 0.19 | 230 | 1467 | 0.16 | 234 | 0.16 |
| Peasedown | 461 | 1571 | 0.29 | 417 | 1749 | 0.24 | 433 | 0.28 |
| Radstock | 194 | 1180 | 0.16 | 283 | 1145 | 0.25 | 192 | 0.16 |
| St Martins | 722 | 2528 | 0.29 | 484 | 1903 | 0.25 | 640 | 0.25 |
| Twerton | 259 | 1435 | 0.18 | 272 | 1719 | 0.16 | 206 | 0.14 |
| Weston | 950 | 2606 | 0.36 | 762 | 1876 | 0.41 | 814 | 0.31 |
| Total | 6244 | 21559 | 0.29 | 6304 | 22587 | 0.28 | 5453 | 0.25 |

The table above shows that in general there has been an increase in the supply of childcare within Bath and North East Somerset. The exceptions to this are Weston, which still retains a supply well above the local authority average, and Radstock, where the undersupply is mitigated by the high level of childcare available in Midsomer Norton adjacent.

An issue not previously identified is the capacity at which Childminders choose to operate which we have found to be only 42% of the capacity permitted by Ofsted.



Although there appears to be sufficient available Early Years Entitlement (EYE) places throughout Bath and North East Somerset, these places may not be in the 'required' location leading to some localised shortages and surpluses of places. A few pockets of under-supply have been highlighted during the analysis stage.

These areas are as follows:

Twerton

Although the Twerton area demonstrates an under-supply of childcare compared to the Bath and North East Somerset average number of places, it also has a lower rate of employment. As a result creating childcare that can be sustained by fees from working families has been a challenge to providers who have attempted to set up in the area. It may be that future childcare development needs to be linked to job creation in the area.

Radstock

The Radstock Children's Centre area has experienced a larger decrease in provision than any other area since the 2007 report, even allowing for the boundary changes. In 2007 when combined with Midsomer Norton the two areas had the average amount of places for Bath and North East Somerset, but in 2010 this is no longer the case. It also has to be noted that this was not an ideal solution given the topography of the area, especially for families without access to transport.

In addition it has to be noted from the chart on page 47 that the percentage working population of Radstock is higher than Twerton yet it has the lowest ratio of childcare provision in Bath and North East Somerset.

Paulton

Overall Paulton Children's Centre area has the third highest percentage of parents/carers in work in Bath and North East Somerset, yet the third lowest childcare ratio.

The recognised under-supply in the Paulton Children's Centre area and in particular in Paulton itself, is partly being addressed by the introduction of a new Children's Centre in the town. The new Children's Centre will provide up to 20 childcare places and associated family support services. This is due to open in 2011 and has not been included in this report as a result. The places may also be primarily available for the pre-school age group although a provider may also chose to offer other types of childcare as part of their business plan e.g. summer holiday provision when numbers of younger children traditionally fall.

The housing development on the old Polestar Purnell Printworks site will also provide early years and childcare provision in the future as part of the planning agreement, but this development may take several years to reach the stage where the provision is ready.

Other Children Centre areas

Page 53 shows that even where a Children's Centre area is showing a supply of childcare at or above the Bath and North East Somerset average, at a local level within the typical distance a family may travel to access provision, e.g. ward level, then a local shortfall of provision still exists. This is particularly true within the larger Children Centre areas, e.g. Paulton, Peasedown and Chew Valley.

5.2. Information about childcare

A recent Department for Education report entitled "Towards Universal Early Years Provision: Analysis of take-up by disadvantaged families from recent annual childcare surveys" found that "lack of knowledge about local early years provision was a substantial barrier to taking it up".

In Bath and North East Somerset an analysis of the numbers of children taking up their 3-4 year old entitlement is as follows: -

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------|
| Eligible Children | 2909 | |
| Funded Children | 3009 | |
| Non Resident Funded Children | 258** | 8.5% |
| Resident Funded Children | 2751 | 95% |

** The number of children receiving all of this entitlement in Bath and North East Somerset is 205.

Bath and North East Somerset funds more 3-4 year old children than are eligible but is compensated by the Department for Education accordingly. Although our figures only show that resident take up is 95% (the national requirement) we do not have a record of the children taking all of their entitlement outside Bath and North East Somerset and it may be assumed that our shortfall is either children accessing in another authority or the very small minority who choose not to access any of the entitlement as there is no compulsion for families to use it. Our research is not supportive of the Department's report that there is a lack of knowledge about the entitlement.

5.3. Disabled children

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency consultation 152 parents/guardians, who are on the Link Register, were sent a questionnaire.

Fifty questionnaires (33%) were returned and of these 21 (42%) said they had experienced difficulties in starting or continuing work/training during the last year. For parents/guardians of children without a disabled child the difficulty reported is 23%.

This is not a geographical problem (see appendix B), and none of the respondents identified a lack of transport/access as a reason for not finding suitable childcare.

A disabled child's needs are personal and specific, making the barriers to childcare very varied. The majority of parents simply stated that they couldn't find childcare, although a significant proportion identified a lack of specialist support and expense as the main barriers.

In Bath and North East Somerset in 2010/11 a DCATCH pilot has been launched with a limited amount of funding to help families with disabled children access childcare. In addition Aiming High for Disabled Children funding is being used to fill the gaps in provision which have been identified through consultation with young people, parent/carers and professionals in the field. This data has helped to inform where provision should be best placed.

Further information can be found in Appendix H.

5.4. Older Children

Responses from the parental questionnaire demonstrated that 132 families stated that a lack of childcare had prevented them from working as they would like. Of these, 22 responses stated that this was due to a lack of out of school clubs.

Since the last report, 17 holiday and out of school clubs have closed, mainly due to a lack of numbers and the inability to recruit staff on a sessional basis. A further 24 clubs are due to open across Bath and North East Somerset in the near future.

With all schools now offering the extended services offer and better signposting to parents of childcare now and in the future may show a narrowing of this gap by the 2014 report.

Information on holiday and after-school activities for older children is available from the Family Information Service and from 1BigData Base (www.1bigdatabase.org.uk).

6. Early Education Places

6.1. Parents' views about Early Years Education

Reasons for using childcare – taken from parental questionnaire

| | 0-2 Years | 3-4 Years | 5-7 Years | 8-10 Years | 11-14 Years | 15 – 17 Years |
|--|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| To allow myself and/or partner to work, train or study | 72 | 83 | 138 | 124 | 88 | 23 |
| To allow myself and/or partner to socialise | 4 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| To allow my child to socialise and play | 27 | 50 | 34 | 18 | 17 | 6 |

The parental questionnaire identified that not all eligible children take up their full entitlement. The following breakdown demonstrates that this is out of choice rather than not being able to secure the full entitlement.

Reasons for not using childcare

| | Prefer to look after my children myself | I am able to work around school hours | My child doesn't need it, too old | Cannot find a provider | Lack of transport | My child needs additional support | Opening hours are not suitable | Poor quality | Cost | Tried but my child did not like it | Unable to include my child |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Age 0 - 2 | 36 | 2 | | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Age 3 - 4 | 30 | 6 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 2 |
| Age 5 - 7 | 41 | 35 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 0 |
| Age 8 – 10 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Age 11 - 14 | 27 | 50 | 39 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 1 |
| Age 15 - 17 | 4 | 6 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Further information detailing the type of childcare needed by age of child can be found in Appendix A.

Early Years Entitlement – results from parental questionnaire

| 2008 Report | 2011 Report |
|---|---|
| 59% attended for their maximum entitlement | 82% attended for their maximum entitlement |
| 4% of families were unable to secure their full entitlement | 4% of families were unable to secure their full entitlement |
| 16% did not want more hours than were currently attending | 14% did not want more hours than were currently attending |

This demonstrates that take up has increased since the last report and some parents may still experience difficulties securing the full entitlement, but this will be on an individual provider basis and according to vacancies available.

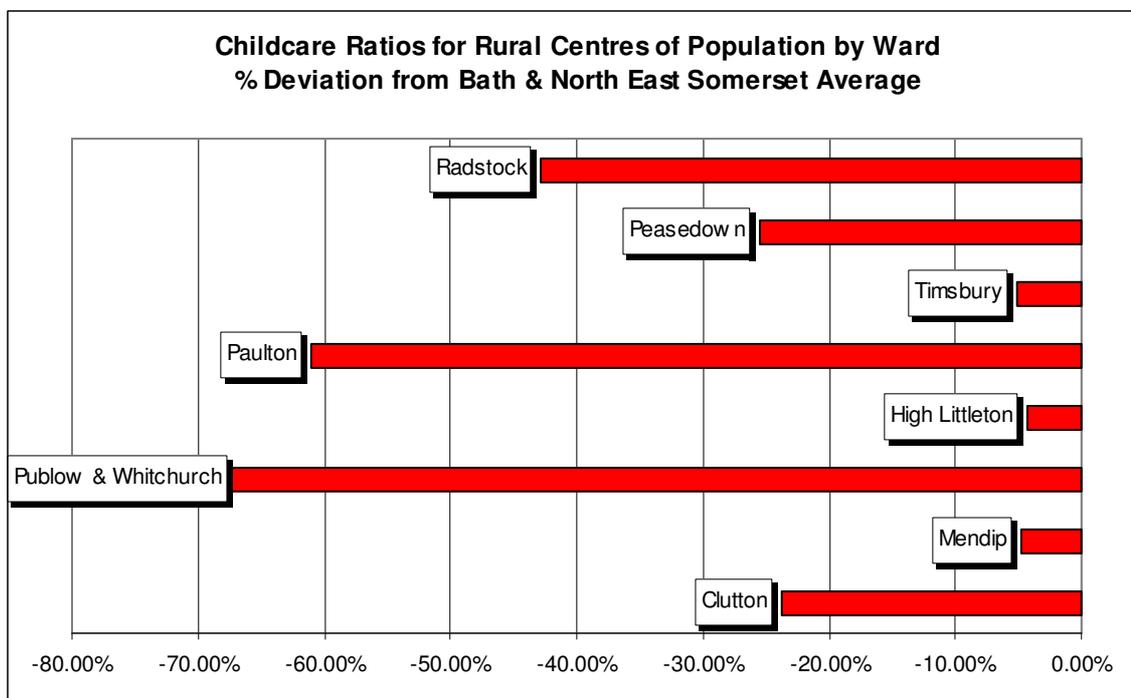
6.2. Number of 3 - 4 year old children

| Children's Centre | 2007 | | | 2010 | | | % Change 2007 to 2010 |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Estimate of the eligible of 3 and 4 year olds 2007 | EYE Places 2007 | Childcare Ratio 2007 | Estimate of the eligible of 3 and 4 year olds 2010 | EYE Places 2010 | Childcare Ratio 2010 | |
| Chew Valley | 269 | 337 | 1.25 | 248 | 370 | 1.49 | 19.2% |
| Keynsham | 318 | 284 | 0.89 | 293 | 318 | 1.09 | 21.4% |
| Midsomer Norton | 302 | 316 | 1.05 | 279 | 286 | 1.02 | -2.1% |
| Moorlands | 312 | 248 | 0.79 | 265 | 224 | 0.85 | 6.3% |
| Parkside | 284 | 424 | 1.49 | 380 | 562 | 1.48 | -0.9% |
| Paulton | 204 | 125 | 0.61 | 194 | 151 | 0.78 | 26.4% |
| Peasedown | 240 | 175 | 0.73 | 214 | 222 | 1.04 | 42.5% |
| Radstock | 165 | 137 | 0.83 | 181 | 134 | 0.74 | -10.7% |
| St Martins | 337 | 376 | 1.12 | 338 | 412 | 1.22 | 9.3% |
| Twerton | 236 | 128 | 0.54 | 206 | 161 | 0.78 | 44.3% |
| Weston | 334 | 442 | 1.32 | 336 | 462 | 1.37 | 3.8% |
| Total | 3002 | 2992 | 1.00 | 2934 | 3301 | 1.12 | 12.9% |

The 2007 ratios above have been adjusted to take account of the reorganisation of the Children's Centre areas. Since 2007 the number of Children's Centres has reduced from 12 to 11. The Bath Rural Children's Centre area has been incorporated into the Parkside, St Martin's and Weston areas and the Bath Rural childcare places and child numbers have been allocated to these areas accordingly.

This table is by Children's Centre area only and may not represent a local picture at ward level. Our analysis of distance travelled demonstrates that 55% of children travel less than 1km to access their entitlement and 38% less than 5km. Some of the Children's Centre areas, in particular the rural areas, cover large areas, and therefore for families without transport, their

provider has to be within “pram pushing” distance. If the table above demonstrates an oversupply this may not be the true position at a local level and therefore further analysis such as that shown below has to be considered.



The above chart shows that although a Children’s Centre area, e.g. Chew Valley or Peasedown, may have a childcare ratio in excess of the Bath and North East Somerset average place per child, locally rural centres of population may suffer a considerable under-supply of Early Years Entitlement places within the distance typically travelled to the setting. This may mean that there is still a gap in provision to be addressed as this ward analysis shows.

6.3. Places for eligible children

All children become eligible for the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) at the start of the term *after* their third birthday (allocation and administrative ‘terms’ reflect the traditional academic periods of September – December, January – March and April – July). The funding allows the child to attend up to 15 hours of education per week for 38 weeks per year and may be split over more than one setting, or stretched to allow families to access all year round care. Children are entitled to continue to receive EYE until compulsory school age - the term after which they turn five.

Ratio of children to places (vacancy details from provider questionnaire).

As outlined previously in the report a provider may be officially registered for X places but choose to offer Y, a lower number as this is in line with their preferred business practice. This means that the number of vacancies in any one area may not be in line with the headline figure of places available.

In addition, providers are required by their registration to adhere to a minimum staff-to-child ratio, 1 to 13 if the session is led by a qualified teacher or early years professional and 1 to 8 if it is led by another qualified staff member. This may also impact on the number of places a provider chooses to offer. It is noted that some providers prefer to offer a higher staff-to-child ratio. This is their business choice and does not impact on the funding they receive to offer the free entitlement and should not impact on a family's ability to access to their free entitlement either.

Early Years Entitlement - Flexibility

In Bath and North East Somerset we are expecting our providers to offer flexibility where they can, within the guidance of the National Code, that is:

- 15 hours over 38 weeks or more
- no session longer than 10 hours
- no session shorter than 2.5 hours
- not before 8am or after 6pm
- the full 15 hours over three days or more (this will permit 12.5 hours in two days)
- funding split over a maximum of two providers.

Flexibility supplement of the Early Years Entitlement

Providers who offer more than 5 ½ continuous hours a day, 5 days a week, for at least 38 weeks a year will be entitled to the flexibility supplement of the Early Years Entitlement. Providers who break the day will not be eligible, as although they may be offering more than 5 ½ hours a day, they will not be offering it continuously as outlined in the new funding formula.

Fifty three of our current providers are entitled to the flexibility supplement of the Single Funding Formula.

Early Years Entitlement Provision changes since last report

New settings opened:

- 12 Day Nursery/Pre-School
- five Accredited Childminders

Settings opening in future:

- one Steiner Pre-School
- three Children's Centres
- three Day Nurseries

Closures:

- 10 Day Nursery/Pre-Schools

Changes to settings:

- two Day Nurseries no longer taking two year old children
- one setting increasing 3 – 4 year old capacity
- one School Nursery class now taking two year olds.

Impact on providers of the extension of the Early Years Entitlement to 15 hours

| Setting Type | Positive | Negative | Not Sure |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Childminder | | 1 | 3 |
| Day Nursery | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Pre-School | 6 | 8 | 11 |
| School Nursery Class | | 1 | 2 |
| Independent Nursery School | | | 3 |
| | 9 | 16 | 28 |
| | 17% | 30%** | 53% |

**There are several reasons for the 'negative effect' ranging from staffing pressures, financial losses and increase in administration.

6.4. Perceived, actual and potential gaps in Early Education places

In order to accommodate more children a popular provider may choose to offer families less than their full early year's entitlement. As funding can be split over two providers a family could choose to use a second provider but may not do so for a variety of reasons. Some of these reasons are around perception, often caused by simple matters such as the differences in provider's names e.g. nursery, pre-school and playgroup all having different connotations without the realisation that they all deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage, have minimum quality standards, are Ofsted inspected and so on. In this case this is not an actual gap but a need for more information to be provided about what the early years offer is, and who can deliver it.

However, if one provider is so popular that they have to restrict children's entitlement because the other choice(s) locally are of a poor quality, lack flexibility or do not meet local demand, even if there are spaces in these settings, an actual gap exists. It is then necessary to either work with the other providers to address these issues and create better local choice, or if changes cannot be made, facilitate new provision into an area that does meet the needs of families and children and enables them to access their full entitlement.

6.5. Ability to use more than one provider

During Autumn 2010 a total of 2038 children accessed their Early Years Entitlement. Of the 2038 children, 259 (13%) attended more than one setting, and of those 59 children accessed provision in both Bath and North East Somerset and a provider in a neighbouring authority. This demonstrates that it is reasonably easy for parents to access more than one setting.

6.6. Funding for two year olds and provision available

In October 2010 the Government announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review that they would be "extending 15 hours a week of early years education and care to all disadvantaged two year olds from 2012-13, and maintaining the universal entitlement to 15 hours for all three and four year olds implemented by the Coalition Government."

As outlined in section three, Bath and North East Somerset has already been part of a national pilot for two year old funding. An increase in numbers of children on the scheme and an increase in the hours available from 10 to 15 may prove that there are insufficient places. The guidance on the new scheme is critical although Bath and North East Somerset will be planning ahead to ensure that children can access this extended opportunity.

Live birth statistics of children born between 2008-2009:

| Area | No of two year old children | No of settings |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Combe Down | 51 | 2 |
| Kingsmead | 46 | 2 |
| Southdown | 63 | 2 |
| Twerton | 94 | 3 |

Note that some providers will overlap into more than one area so the number of places available will be higher than the actual places available. Providers are those which are approved to offer the two year old funding and must have an Ofsted judgement of good or outstanding.

6.7. Ethnicity of Early Years Entitlement children

Information was taken from the summer 2010 term as this is generally has the highest number of children. Returns indicate that 91% of children are White British with 9% identifying themselves as not. This is consistent with the ethnic makeup of Bath and North East Somerset in general.

Note: If a child attends more than one setting, they will be counted twice.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1. Key Findings 2010

- there has been a notable increase in childcare provision since the last report with relatively stable population growth
- newly established provision may not always provide places where they are needed the most
- the Bath area has seen an influx of baby and very young age provision, however working families with pre school age children may experience difficulties finding provision which is totally flexible, although some providers offer holiday/breakfast/after-school provision alongside the provision for very young children
- the majority of providers are happy with the level of childcare in their local area, with the exception of Paulton and Chew Valley. The completion of the Children's Centres at Chew Valley and Paulton will help to alleviate the shortage in provision experienced by some families
- families with disabled children report encountering significantly greater difficulty in finding childcare across the whole of Bath and North East Somerset.

7.2. Recommendations

- the reports on the levels of provision contained within the childcare sufficiency assessment to be refreshed every 6 months, and the results published on the Bath and North East Somerset website
- the majority of providers are confident that their business is sustainable over the next two years. However, 42% of providers had seen a negative effect on their business from the current economic climate. Bath and North East Somerset should continue to monitor the impact of the economy on provision and provide strategies for market management in order to sustain existing quality provision, or in areas of shortfall to encourage new entrants into the childcare market
- to plan the expansion of the two year old funding from 10 hours per week to 15 hours per week term time only, to be implemented from 2013
- to evaluate the DCATCH initiative during 2011 and implement the recommended actions to improve the sufficiency of childcare for disabled children

- to publish an action plan in line with the childcare sufficiency report and will be reviewed every 6 months with an update on progress made and outcomes achieved

7.3 Context

Conclusions from this sufficiency report must be considered within the following context/facts:

- the local area has a larger than national average number of private and voluntary providers over which Bath and North East Somerset Council has limited influence
- the choice of childcare provider is a personal decision and there will always be some provision which is more popular than others
- the number of children requiring childcare and the number of childcare places being provided is in a constant state of flux
- the most popular form of childcare continues to be family members as demonstrated in the last sufficiency report.

Appendix A – Results from Parental Questionnaire

Ethnicity of respondents (from parental questionnaire)

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----|------|
| White | White British | 467 | 92% |
| | White Irish | 2 | 0.4% |
| | White Eastern European | 1 | 0.2% |
| | Any other white background | 14 | 3% |
| Dual Heritage | Black Caribbean + | 1 | 0.2% |
| | Black African + | | |
| | Asian + | 1 | 0.2% |
| | Chinese + | | |
| | White + | 9 | 2% |
| | Any other mixed background | 4 | 0.8% |
| Asian | Indian | 2 | 0.4% |
| | Pakistani | | |
| | Bangladeshi | | |
| | Any other Asian background | 2 | 0.4% |
| Black or Black British | Caribbean | 2 | 0.4% |
| | African | 2 | 0.4% |
| | Any other Black background | | |
| Chinese or other | Chinese | | |
| | South East Asian | | |
| | Any other Chinese background | | |

Disability

Respondent Disabled

Yes 15 (3%) No 477 Prefer not to say 6

Partner Disabled

Yes 12 (3%) No 410 Prefer not to say 5

Both Parents disabled

Yes 4 (0.8%)

Children's view on quality

To gather the views of children using childcare provision, a series of informal consultations took place within early years settings, holiday play schemes, after school clubs, breakfast clubs and at a play event. Children were asked what they liked and didn't like about the setting, and what they would change about the setting.

What do you like?

Summary of comments

- Lots of outside space, plenty of room to play
- Adventure trails
- Dens/shelters
- Computer equipment
- Outside games
- Soft play area
- Prefer to be outside

What would you change about the setting:

Summary of comments

- Wouldn't change anything
- Redecoration of rooms, cleaner
- More outside equipment
- More colour on the walls
- More soft play equipment
- Make sensory room bigger
- More activities for older children
- Larger area

What activities/toys/resources do you like:

Summary of comments

- Trampoline
- Dressing up
- Visits
- Model making
- Arts and crafts
- Free play
- Making shelters and dens
- Climbing trees
- Football
- Soft play
- Visits
- Talking in the quiet area

What would you change about the activities/toys/resources:

Summary of comments

- More computer equipment
- More outdoor toys
- More stories
- Outdoor games
- TV with children's programmes
- More trips
- Trampoline
- After school pet

Age of child by type of provision used

| | | Age of child | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| | | Age 0 - 2 | Age 3 - 4 | Age 5 - 7 | Age 8 - 10 | Age 11 - 14 | Age 15 – 17 Disabled Children |
| Type of provision | After School Club | 0 | 6 | 56 | 59 | 20 | 0 |
| | Breakfast Club | 1 | 3 | 26 | 19 | 3 | 0 |
| | Childminder | 16 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 0 |
| | Crèche | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Family Link Worker | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| | Family Members | 37 | 52 | 72 | 80 | 58 | 4 |
| | Friends and Neighbours | 7 | 26 | 48 | 47 | 30 | 1 |
| | Holiday Clubs | 3 | 5 | 45 | 47 | 25 | 1 |
| | Nanny/Au Pair | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| | Outreach | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Personal Assistant | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| | Pre-School | 43 | 115 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| | Supervised activities on school site | 0 | 3 | 36 | 46 | 26 | 0 |
| | Other | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Have childcare issues prevented you from working etc?

Yes 132 No 382

Comments:

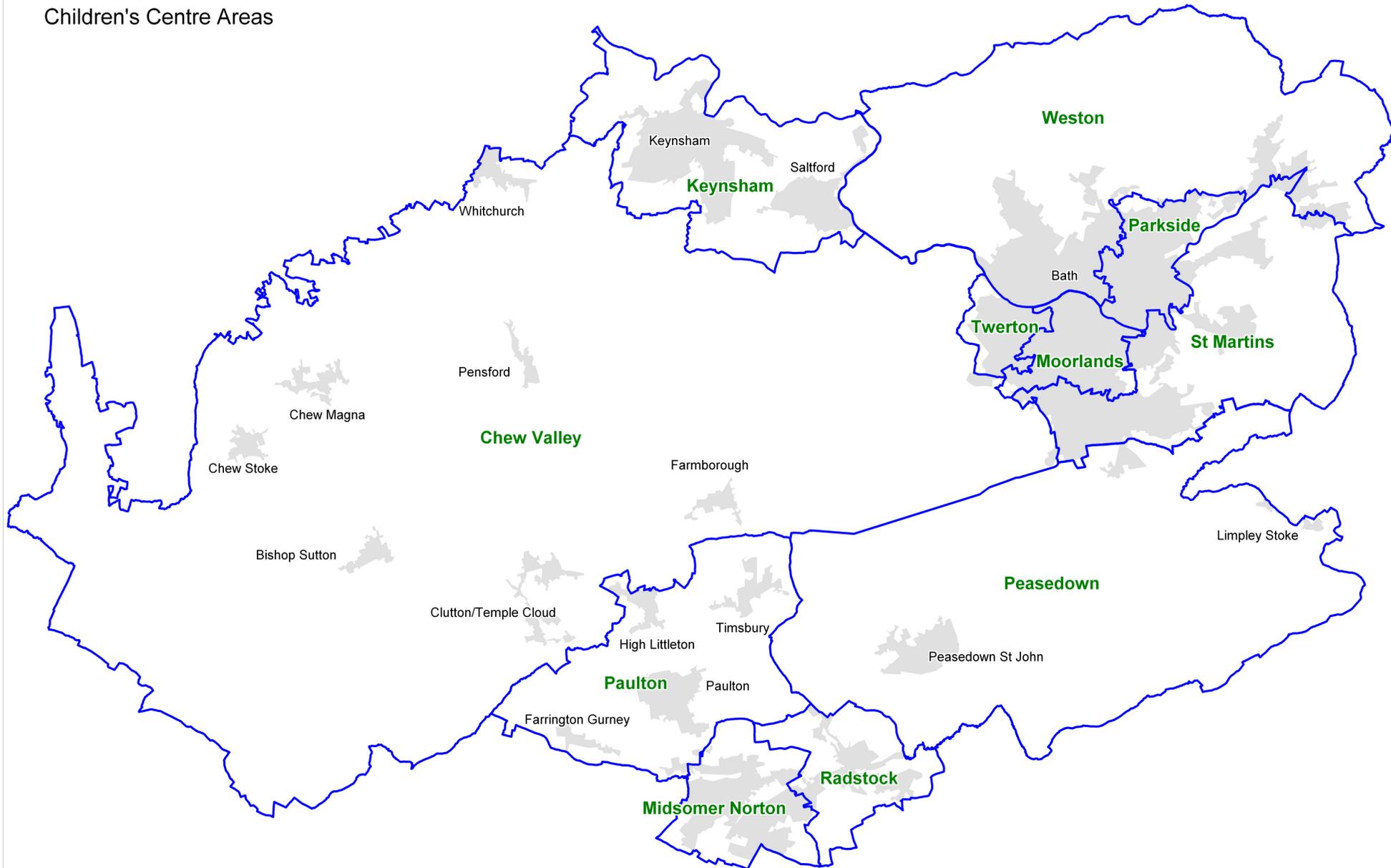
- Very difficult to find childcare before school i.e. from 7.30am onwards so is currently preventing me from doing better paid supply teaching work. Very few childminders in this area and have to rely on neighbours for occasional help (**Newbridge Area**).
- Lack of School holiday provision.
- Lack of affordable childcare in our area, no childminders or nurseries (**Pensford Area**).
- Finding childcare for 3 children (1 of who is severely disabled) during school holidays
- Finding childcare for school holidays for 3 children is expensive, not always convenient location. Youngest child too young for some clubs.
- Lack of childminders in the area (**Hinton Blewett Area**)
- Transportation and lack of childcare places (**Chelwood Area**)
- Inadequate choice of childcare meant my wife had to turn down interview for job (**Clutton Area**)
- It has been very difficult to find childcare for two children together so I have been forced to use different options for different children and on different days - making it very complex and more difficult for the children to settle (**Batheaston Area**).
- Can't afford childcare - it costs more than we can earn for 3 children.
- None available in later evening.
- I am unable to consider increasing my hours due to the lack of local affordable before school and after school childcare in the village. The schools should be compelled to offer such services where there is a demand (**Bathford Area**).
- It's been a nightmare getting childcare, if you go to childminders no-one ever calls you back. I've had to settle with someone with a very bad Ofsted for my 3 month old! There is not enough childcare in the area - especially nursery care! (**Midsomer Norton Area**)
- Lack of affordable, quality childcare in my area (**Keynsham Area**).

Ethnicity of Early Years Entitlement Children

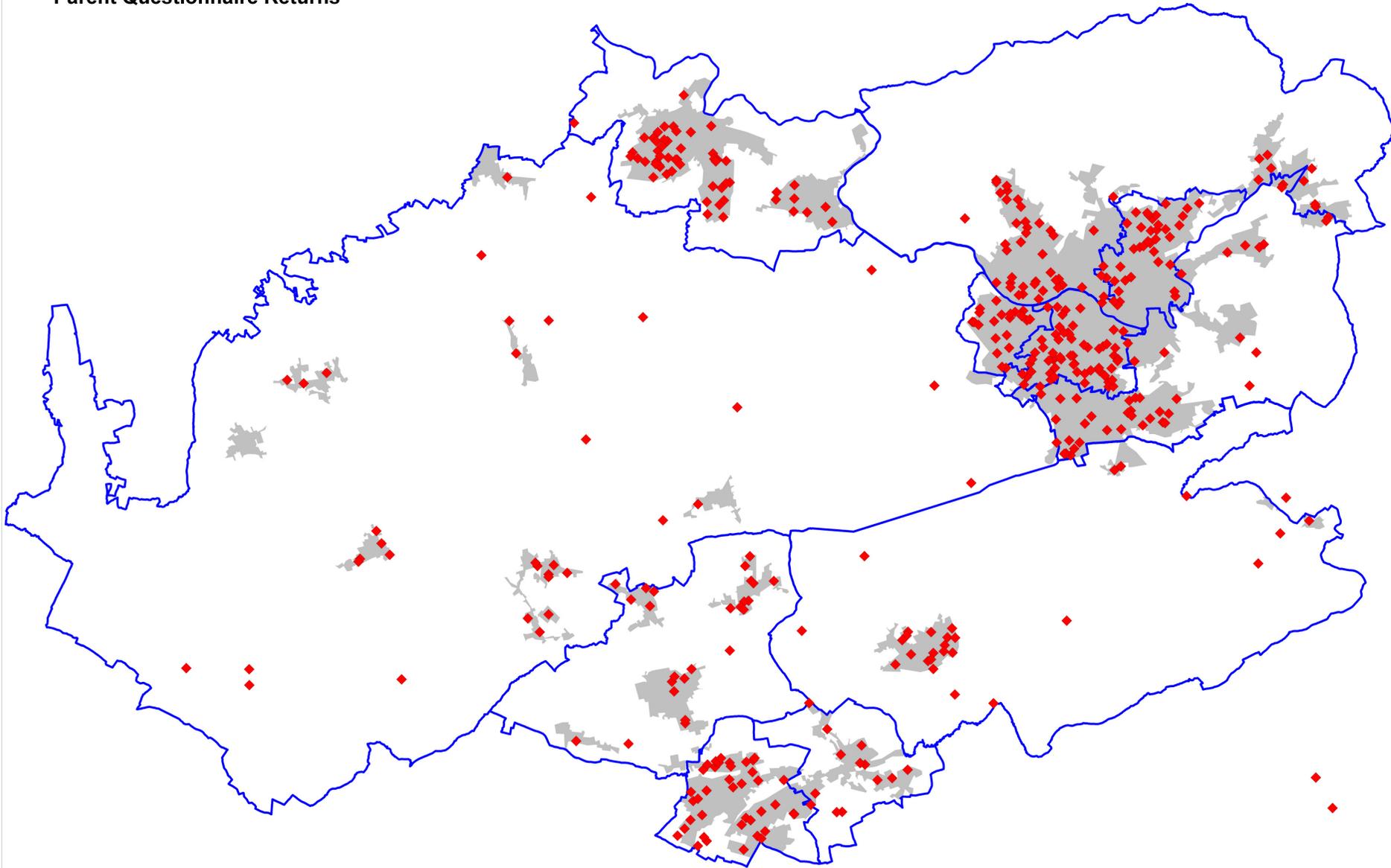
| Ethnicity | No of Children |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bangladeshi | 3 |
| Indian | 13 |
| Any other Asian background | 15 |
| Pakistani | 1 |
| African | 2 |
| Black Caribbean | 4 |
| Any other Black background | 4 |
| Chinese | 6 |
| Any other Mixed background | 22 |
| White/Asian | 23 |
| White/Black African | 10 |
| White/Black Caribbean | 23 |
| Any other Ethnic group | 18 |
| British | 2241 |
| Irish | 8 |
| Traveller | 1 |
| Any other White background | 63 |
| Info Not Obtained | 28 |
| No Ethnicity Recorded | 541 |
| Refused | 29 |
| Total | 3055 |

Appendix B – Maps

Bath and North East Somerset Children's Centre Areas



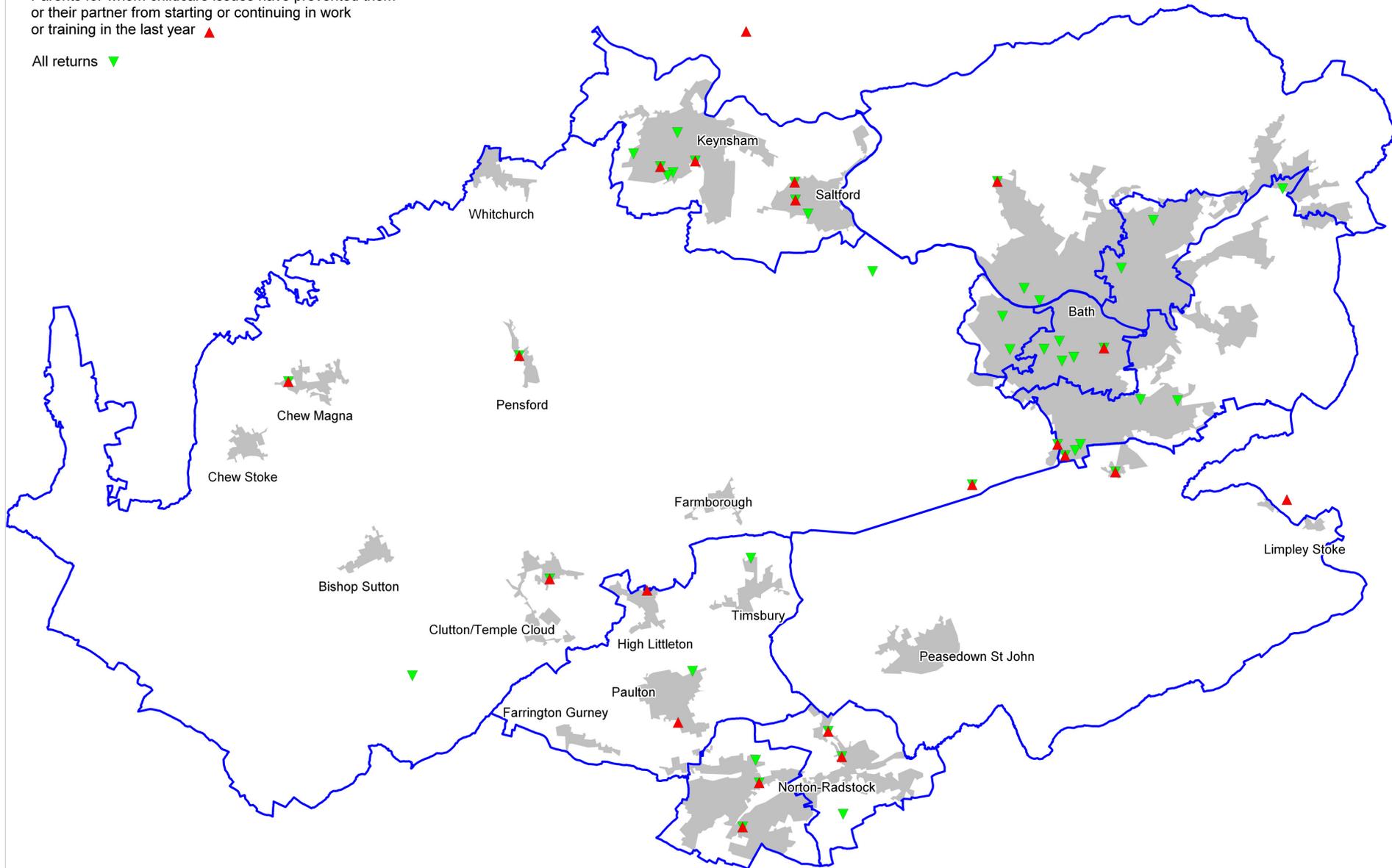
Parent Questionnaire Returns



Parents with children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance - Questionnaire Returns

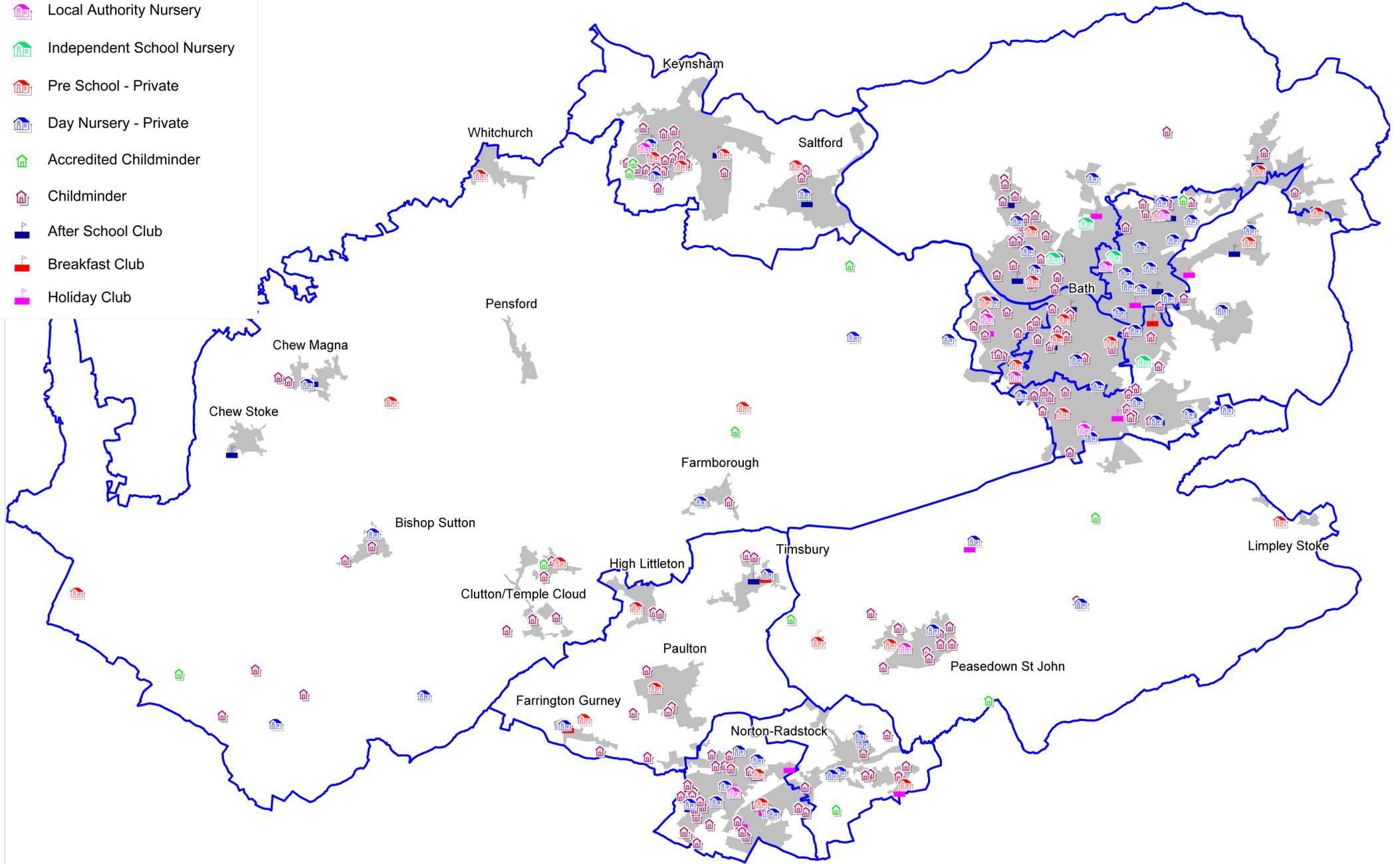
Parents for whom childcare issues have prevented them or their partner from starting or continuing in work or training in the last year ▲

All returns ▼



Childcare Providers

-  Local Authority Nursery
-  Independent School Nursery
-  Pre School - Private
-  Day Nursery - Private
-  Accredited Childminder
-  Childminder
-  After School Club
-  Breakfast Club
-  Holiday Club



Appendix C - Distance Travelled

1806 children travelled less than 1km to attend a setting (55%)

The breakdown of the settings is as follows:

- Pre-School = 816 children (45%)
- Day Nursery = 977 children (54%)
- Accredited Childminder* = 13 children (1%)

1270 children travelled between 1km and 5km to attend a setting (38%)

The breakdown of the settings is as follows:

- Pre-School = 334 children (26%)
- Day Nursery = 925 children (73%)
- Accredited Childminder* = 11 children (1%)

167 children travelled between 5km and 10km to attend a setting (5%)

The breakdown of the settings is as follows:

- Pre-School = 20 children (12%)
- Day Nursery = 146 children (87%)
- Accredited Childminder* = 1 child (1%)

56 children travelled more than 10.1km to attend a setting (2%).

The breakdown of the settings is as follows:

- Pre-School = 7 children (12.5%)
- Day Nursery = 49 children (87.5%)

*It is important to note that the numbers only represent the Accredited Childminders who are in receipt of the Early Years Entitlement, and many more children may go to non accredited Childminders.

Appendix D - Parents comments on Your Time

Parental comments

He can't wait to come again

Brilliant, all the staff were very welcoming

The people who ran it were really nice and he really liked going

Just a BIG thank you

She loved it

She is STILL talking about it!

Get the details out earlier

Sign in and out each day

Great!!

If it is run again it needs to be affordable for ALL and not penalise the ones who are NOT on YourTime!

Fantastic value

A great idea, she became really confident

Really good, such a nice sociable group

Affordable and good fun for the children

Appendix E

Consultation

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, Bath and North East Somerset Council consulted with the following:

- **The Local Safeguarding Children's Board**
- **Jobcentre Plus (JCP)**
Existing links between the Jobcentre Plus and the Bath and North East Somerset Family Information Service has enabled the effective sharing of information regarding availability of childcare provision and the barriers facing JCP clients.
- **Children's Trust Board**
Consultation paper was discussed at the Children's Trust Board held on 9th December.
- **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**
Paper to be presented to the panel on 17th January 2011.
- **Children aged between 3 and 14 years of age**
Consultation took place within early years settings, holiday play schemes, after school clubs, breakfast clubs and a play event. Children were asked what they liked and didn't like about the setting, and what would they change about the setting.
- **Parents**
Parental questionnaires were distributed to over 2000 families from a random sample extracted from all families with school age children resident in Bath and North East Somerset. The questionnaire gathered parents' views on accessibility, cost, and availability of provision in their local area. An extract of parents with disabled children was produced from the information held on the link register.
- **Childcare providers**
Questionnaires were distributed to childcare providers across Bath and North East Somerset. The type of provision ranged from Pre-Schools, Day Nurseries, Breakfast/After School clubs, Holiday Play Schemes, Childminders to Children Centre provision. Providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent section were represented.

The questionnaire gathered the providers' views on the availability of childcare in their area, their own sustainability, and their capacity.
- **Employers**
Employers within Bath and North East Somerset who are registered with Business Link were sent a questionnaire asking for their views on the availability of childcare. They were also asked what support they provided their employees with regards to accessing childcare.

- **Governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of schools other than maintained schools.**
A link to the consultation was distributed through the Merlin information sharing system, allowing Governing bodies to formally respond to the draft consultation.
- **Neighbouring authorities**
Informal consultation has taken place between the neighbouring authorities during regional events.

Appendix F – Questionnaires

Parent Questionnaire



Is there enough Childcare to allow you to Work, Train or Study?

By completing this questionnaire you will tell us whether you think there is enough childcare available in your area.

Childcare is defined as "anyone else looking after your child especially when you are at work, training or studying". As well as formal care by Day Nurseries, Pre Schools, Out of School Clubs and Childminders this may include informal care provided by family, friends and neighbours. For older children supervised activities after school and during holiday times may enable a parent/carer to go to work.

Confidentiality All data on the completed questionnaires will be treated confidentially. Individual responses will not be identified or passed to any third party.

Free Draw As a thank you, all parents/carers who return a questionnaire can choose to enter a free draw for a £100 shopping voucher. If you wish to be included in the draw please enter your contact details at the end of the questionnaire. These details will not be stored or used for any other purpose. The draw will take place on Friday 14 May 2010 and the winner will be notified shortly afterwards.

Please return the completed questionnaire, as soon as possible, in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope or to:

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Early Years and Extended Services
Childcare Sufficiency Questionnaire
FREEPOST NAT11612
Bristol
BS31 1LA

If you would like to complete this questionnaire online please go to : www.bathnes.gov.uk click on **Have Your Say** and then select **Bath and North East Somerset Childcare Sufficiency Survey - 2010** from the **Consultation Calendar**.

Thank you very much for your help

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Q1 | Are you? | Female | <input type="checkbox"/> | Male | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Q2 | Is your family? | Two parent family | <input type="checkbox"/> | Single parent family | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Q3 | How many children live with you and how old are they? | | | | | Disabled Children | |
| | | Age 0-2 | Age 3-4 | Age 5-7 | Age 8-10 | Age 11-14 | Age 15-17 |
| | How old are they? Enter the number of children within each age group | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | Do you claim Disability Living Allowance? Enter the number of children for whom you claim | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

PTO to continue:

Q4 Do you work? (include working from home and voluntary work)

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Full time work | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full time parent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part time work 16 hours or more per week | <input type="checkbox"/> | Training/Studying | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part time work less than 16 hours per week | <input type="checkbox"/> | No - Looking for work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q5 If a two parent family: Does your partner work? (include working from home and voluntary work)

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Full time work | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full time parent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part time work 16 hours or more per week | <input type="checkbox"/> | Training/Studying | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part time work less than 16 hours per week | <input type="checkbox"/> | No - Looking for work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6 Do you currently rely on any of the following childcare provision for your children? Rely indicates regular use that you would struggle to be without. (please enter the number of children using each type)

| | Age 0-2 | Age 3-4 | Age 5-7 | Age 8-10 | Age 11-14 | Disabled Children Age 15-17 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| After School Club | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Breakfast Club | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Childminder | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Creche | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Link Carer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Members | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Friends and neighbours | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Holiday Club/Activities/Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nanny/Au pair | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outreach - Carertaking child outside the home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Personal Assistant - direct payment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Preschool, Playgroup, Day/School Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Supervised Activities afterschool on school site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None - do not use childcare - go to Q10 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |

Q7 What is the main reason for using childcare? (please tick one)

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| To allow myself and/or partner to work, train or study | <input type="checkbox"/> | To allow my child to socialise and play | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To allow myself and/or partner to socialise | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other please specify | <input type="text"/> |

Q8 When do you need this childcare? (please tick all that apply)

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Term Time Only | <input type="checkbox"/> | School Holidays Only | <input type="checkbox"/> | All Year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Normal School Hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | School Holidays part time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Evenings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Before School | <input type="checkbox"/> | School Holidays full time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Overnight | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After School | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other please specify | <input type="text"/> | | |

Q9 If using formal childcare, how satisfied are you with your current provider?
Please score each service you use. Enter a score for each aspect :-
1 = Poor, 2 = Satisfactory, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent

| | Location | Opening Hours | Cost | Staff/ Carer | Reliability | Meets your child's needs |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| After School Club | <input type="text"/> |
| Breakfast Club | <input type="text"/> |
| Childminder | <input type="text"/> |
| Creche | <input type="text"/> |
| Family Link Carer | <input type="text"/> |
| Holiday Club/Activities/Sports | <input type="text"/> |
| Nanny/Au pair | <input type="text"/> |
| Outreach - Carertaking child outside the home | <input type="text"/> |
| Personal Assistant - direct payment | <input type="text"/> |
| Preschool, Playgroup, Day/School Nursery | <input type="text"/> |
| Supervised Activities afterschool at school | <input type="text"/> |

Any comments:

Q10 If you don't use childcare for some or all of your children, please tell us why? (tick all that apply)

| | Age 0-2 | Age 3-4 | Age 5-7 | Age 8-10 | Age 11-14 | Disabled Children Age 15-17 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Prefer to look after my children myself | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am able to work around school hours | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My child doesn't need it - too old | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is no suitable childcare available because :- | | | | | | |
| Cannot find childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of transport - access | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Language or cultural reasons | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My child needs additional support | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Opening hours are not suitable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor quality | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Too expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tried but my child did not like it | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to include my child | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Any comments?

Q11 In the last year, have childcare issues prevented you (or your partner) from starting or continuing in work or training? (please tick one)

No Yes

If yes - please describe the problem

Q12 Are you aware of the following? If so, have you qualified or used any of them in the last year?
(please tick whether you have heard of them and if so, whether you have used or qualified for them)

| | Aware of | Qualified for | Used |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Child Tax Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working Families Tax Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Early Years Entitlement (formerly Nursery Education Grant) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Train to Gain | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Care to Learn | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carers Allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disability Living Allowance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Employers Childcare Voucher Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q13 Please complete if your child is 3 or 4 years old.
Early Years Entitlement helps pay for pre-school education for children over the age of 3. There is a maximum entitlement of 12.5 hours of nursery education per week with some settings providing 15 hours.
Does your child attend for their maximum entitlement per week? (please tick one)

Yes No - Can't get more hours No - Don't want more hours

Q14 What is your ethnic group?

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| White | British | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian or Asian British | Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Eastern European | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Any other white background | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Any other Asian background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dual Heritage (tick all that apply) | Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black or Black British | Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> | | African | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Any other Black background | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chinese or other ethnic group | Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | White | <input type="checkbox"/> | | South East Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Any other Mixed background | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Any other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q15 Do you consider yourself disabled? Yes No Prefer not to say

Q16 If a two parent family: is your partner disabled? Yes No Prefer not to say

Q17 What is your postcode? e.g. BA1 4GA

Q18 Any comments

Q19 Free Draw: Please enter your name and contact telephone number.

If you require any information about childcare please call our Family Information Service on 0800 073 1214

Thank you for your help - Please return your questionnaire in the Freepost Envelope provided or to your child's setting

Early Years Entitlement Providers Questionnaire



Bath and North East Somerset Childcare Survey 2010 - EYE Providers

Please check that the following information is correct. If any details are incorrect please amend as appropriate.

Setting Name and Address :

3-24 Playgroup
The Portacabin, School Drive, Chandag Road,
Keynsham, BS31 1PQ

Contact Name :

Mrs Nicola Burton

We are interested in your views as to whether or not there are enough childcare places in the area around your setting. Please read the following statements and for each one indicate how much you agree or disagree by putting a tick in the relevant box.

| | strongly agree | agree | disagree | strongly disagree | not sure |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| There is sufficient childcare provision locally to meet the needs of parents/carers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am confident that my setting is sustainable over the next 1 to 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Where late or non payment of fees has occurred we are able to implement strategies to resolve these effectively | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The 50% advance for Early Years Entitlement is enough to ensure good cashflow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The current Early Years Entitlement funding under the Single Funding Formula is sufficient to ensure the sustainability of my setting | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Please answer the following questions | | | | | |
| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | |
| Q1 What is the maximum capacity of your setting by each age range:- | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | |
| Not all settings are sufficiently staffed or choose not to operate at their maximum capacity. Your Chosen capacity is the number of children you choose to accommodate at any one time. | | | | | |
| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | |
| Q2 Settings Chosen capacity within each age range | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | |

PTO

Q3 Do you currently have any vacancies? Yes No

Q4 If you have vacancies, please insert the number of vacancies for each age range for this week

| | Under2 | | 2 | | 3 - 4 | | 5 - 7 | |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | am | pm | am | pm | am | pm | am | pm |
| Monday | <input type="text"/> |
| Tuesday | <input type="text"/> |
| Wednesday | <input type="text"/> |
| Thursday | <input type="text"/> |
| Friday | <input type="text"/> |

Q5 How would you best describe the vacancies for each age range at your setting?
(please tick one box per age group)

| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| We always have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| We usually have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| We occasionally have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any vacancies are filled immediately | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6 Do you maintain a waiting list? Yes No

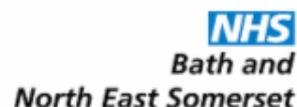
Q7 If yes, please insert the number of children in each age group who are waiting for a place now.

| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Q8 Any other comments

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please return by 9 April 2010 in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope or to:
Bath & North East Somerset Council, Early Years and Extended Services, Childcare Sufficiency Questionnaire, FREEPOST NAT11612, Bristol BS31 1LA

Out of School Childcare Providers Questionnaire



Bath and North East Somerset Childcare Survey 2010 - Out of School Childcare Providers

Please check that the following information is correct. If any details are incorrect please amend as appropriate.

Setting Name and Address:

Bathampton Primary Breakfast Club

Bathampton Primary School, Tuning Road, Bathampton, Bath, BA2 6TQ

Contact Name and Address:

Bathampton Primary School

We are interested in your views as to whether or not there are enough childcare places in the area around your setting.

Please read the following statements and for each one indicate how much you agree or disagree by putting a tick in the relevant box.

| | strongly agree | agree | disagree | strongly disagree | not sure |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| There is sufficient childcare provision locally to meet the needs of parents/carers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am confident that my setting is sustainable over the next 1 to 2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Where late or non payment of fees has occurred we are able to implement strategies to resolve these effectively | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please answer the following questions

Q1 What is the maximum capacity of your setting by each age range:-

| | Under 2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | 8 - 10 | 11 - 14 | Disabled Children 14 - 17 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q2 Not all settings are sufficiently staffed or choose not to operate at their maximum capacity. Your Chosen capacity is the number of children you choose to accommodate at any one time.

Setting's Chosen capacity within each age range

| | Under 2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | 8 - 10 | 11 - 14 | Disabled Children 14 - 17 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q3 Do you currently have any vacancies?

Yes No Not applicable

PTD to continue:

Q4 If you do have vacancies, please insert the number of vacancies for each age range for this week

| | Under2 | | 2 | | 3 - 4 | | 5 - 7 | | 8 - 10 | | 11 - 14 | | Disabled Children 14 - 17 | |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | am | pm | am | pm |
| Monday | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Tuesday | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Wednesday | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Thursday | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Friday | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Q5 How would you best describe the vacancies for each age range at your setting?
(please tick one box per age group)

| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | 8 - 10 | 11 - 14 | Disabled Children 14 - 17 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| I always have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I usually have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I occasionally have vacancies | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any vacancies are filled immediately | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6 Do you maintain a waiting list?

Yes No

Q7 If yes, please insert the number of children in each age group who are waiting for a place now.

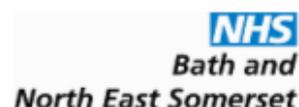
| | Under2 | 2 | 3 - 4 | 5 - 7 | 8 - 10 | 11 - 14 | Disabled Children 14 - 17 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | <input type="text"/> |

Q8 Any other comments?

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please return by 31st August 2010 in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope or to:

Childcare Sufficiency Audit, Early Years, 1st Floor, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, BS31 1LA

Employers Questionnaire



Employers Childcare Survey - 2010

Q1 Company Name :

Address :

Postcode :

Q2 Type of Business :

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Art, sports, recreation and tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> | Media and creative | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Catering and accommodation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Personal services e.g. spiritual, cosmetic, domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional and business services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education and Training | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retail, hire or repair | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health, social care and public services | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wholesale, storage or transport | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| IT and telecommunications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) <input type="text"/> | |
| Mining, energy and utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Q3 How many employees do you have?

- Please tick one
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| None - Self Employed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1 - 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 - 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 101 - 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 501 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q4 Do a significant number of your staff usually work:

- Please tick all that apply
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Office hours e.g. 8am - 6pm weekdays | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evenings after 6pm weekdays | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mornings before 8am | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overnight | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q5 Do you have a workplace nursery? Yes No No, but considering it

Q6 Do you offer any of the following to your staff ?

- Please tick all that apply
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Childcare vouchers (including Salary Sacrifice Scheme) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Help with claiming tax credits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Information about the local Family Information Service | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PTO

Q7 Do you offer your employees any of the following flexible working arrangements?

Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Flexitime | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paternity or adoption leave | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Part time working during school hours | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Phased return to work following maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Term time working | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working from home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other arrangements (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q8 In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following because staff were unable to find suitable childcare?

Please tick all that apply

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Increase in sickness or absence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Job offers being turned down by potential recruits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Staff unable to return to work following maternity leave | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working time /training opportunities lost | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q9 What was the impact on your business?

Please tick one

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Not significant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Slightly significant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Significant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Very significant | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q10 What childcare support / solutions would provide the most help to your business?

Q11 Are you aware that your local Family Information Service offers free support to parents to help them find suitable childcare and early years education for their children?

Please tick one

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unsure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|

If you wish to discuss any of the Family Friendly options shown in Q6 & Q7 above please contact Family Information Service :
Freephone 0800 073 1214 or email fis@bathnes.gov.uk

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please return in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope or to:
Childcare Sufficiency Audit, Early Years, 1st Floor, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, ~~Keynsham~~ BS31 1LA

Appendix G

Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance – Parent Consultation

Parents/guardians of children with disabilities encounter significantly greater difficulty in finding childcare (42%) than those without a disabled child (23%).

This is not a geographical problem (see maps), and none of the respondents identified a lack of transport/access as a reason for not finding suitable childcare.

A disabled child's needs are personal and specific, making the barriers to childcare very varied. The majority of parents simply stated that they couldn't find childcare, although a significant proportion identified a lack of specialist support and expense as the main barriers.

Method and Results

As part of the Childcare Sufficiency consultation 152 parents/guardians, who are on the Link Register, were sent a questionnaire.

Fifty questionnaires (33%) were returned and of these 21 (42%) said they had experienced difficulties in starting or continuing work/training during the last year.

The corresponding proportions for parents/guardians of children without disabilities, was 24% of questionnaires returned, of which 23% experienced difficulties in starting or continuing work/training during the last year.

Lack of Childcare for children in receipt of DLA - Reasons

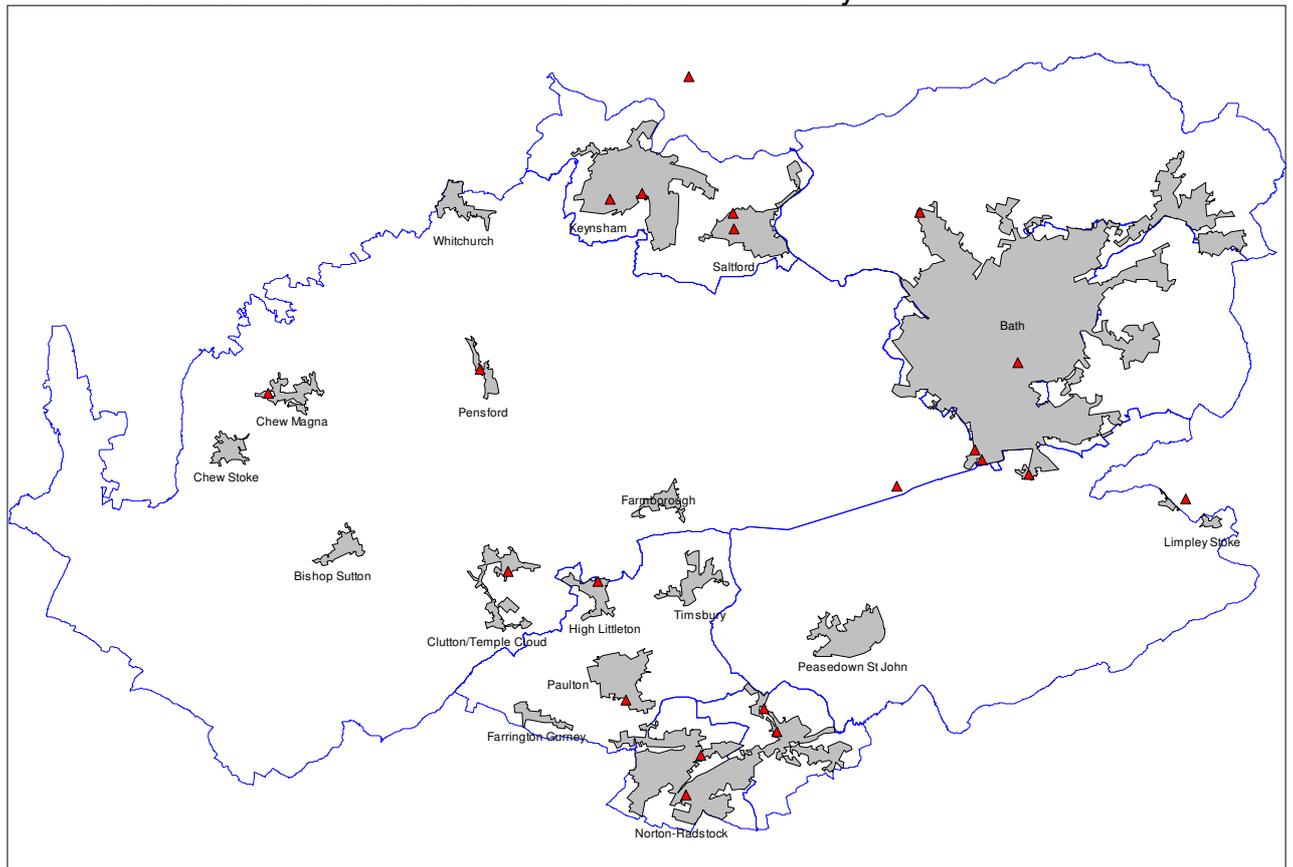
| | Age | | | | | | Total | % |
|---|---------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|-------|-------|
| | Under 2 | 3 to 4 | 5 to 7 | 8 to 10 | 11 to 14 | 14 to 17 | | |
| Prefer to look after my children myself | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9.52 |
| I am able to work around school hours | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 9.52 |
| My child doesn't need it - too old | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9.52 |
| Cannot find childcare | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 6 | 28.57 |
| Lack of transport - access | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|-------|
| Language or cultural reasons | | | | | | | | |
| My child needs additional support | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 3 | 14.29 |
| Opening hours are not suitable | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | 9.52 |
| Poor quality | | | | | | | | |
| Too expensive | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | 14.29 |
| Tried but my child/children did not like it | | | | | | | | |
| Unable to include my child | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4.76 |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | | | | |
| Some of the respondents did not give a specific reason for not using childcare although they said a lack of childcare prevented them from working | | | | | | | | |

Lack of Childcare for children in receipt of DLA – Comments

- Unable to find reasonable funds for them to attend any clubs or how to find them and get in touch with them. If any where available. I have not been able to work or support my children.
- Due to my unsociable hours whilst training to be a nurse, hard for my husband to fit in around me and childcare
- Closures
- Had awful trouble trying to get a carers break through the take a break project because of childcare availability
- Would like to work more hours - lack of after school club/breakfast club/childminder preventing me. Breakfast Club only runs two days per week
- Sickness - we are the only ones able to lift our eldest child
- Pre-School doesn't open during holidays but couldn't afford to pay for childcare during holidays. No Government funded childcare in holiday times means I have to limit my work or take children with me
- No after school care with transport. Also getting to appointments i.e. physiotherapy, there's a health barrier with lack of childcare
- My Husband often works away making it hard for me to go out and occasionally attend college which is at weekends. I cannot attend anything in the evenings because of this

- Inadequate choice of childcare meant my wife had to turn down interview for job
- I occasionally need to travel for work, this means I need to leave before the boys go to school and come back after they finish their after school activities. I could not do this travel. This will eventually damage my career
- Child needed full time care for 8 weeks due to illness
- No one to look after child with ASD when not at school or unwell or inset days. Had to take carers leave
- My child's needs are complex and he requires specialist trained carers - hard to find and train. I cannot contemplate working full time in a conventional job as there is no way I could find care for my son during school holidays
- Finding childcare for 3 children (1 of who is severely disabled) during school holidays
- We are both self employed and can only accept work when we have care arrangements
- Stress from dealing with a disabled child and the fact that she needs occupying all the time. She has tried to commit suicide twice.
- Picking up from school
- No one to have him after school so can't work all day



Parents of children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance who have experienced difficulties in starting or continuing work/training during the last year.

Appendix H - Draft Report - Consultation Responses

Below are a selection of responses made to the Draft Report – those that were of a very personal nature have been omitted.

| |
|---|
| <p>The experience of the DCATCH initiative is that there are problems of accessing child care for disabled children in the rural areas in particular the Chew Valley area. The other issues are economic, the cost of child care and the possible loss of benefits in returning to work . The other major issue is the confidence of parents in the care that would be provided to their children .</p> |
| <p>This is a very comprehensive report and the results have shown good progress. I am surprised by the 100% compliance with the Extended Schools Core Offer, but I think that this is not generally well publicised by the schools themselves. Having looked on some websites this level of service is not transparent.</p> |
| <p>As part of the Children in Care and Moving on Team I dont professionally come into contact with early years provision except when a careleaver has a child and wants to access education and needs childcare provision. I am aware of CaretoLearn and their financial support has been really helpful. The careleaver accessed nursery provision through this scheme which was a positive for her, enabling her to engage in further education.The parent was happy with the quality of the provision.</p> |
| <p>It is of concern to me that there is a lack of choice of childcare provision in order to take up employment once children start school, it is important that there is a choice, particularly if the care is provided by the private sector as otherwise there is no incentive for the provider to try to achieve high standards.</p> <p>For instance I would like a breakfast club 4 days a week for my children from September but this does not seem to be possible at Bathwick St Mary where they will go to school. The choice for after school / holiday care is not a lot broader for this school. One of my daughters is currently 3 1/2 but none of the nursery clases in Bath offer long enough sessions to enable me to pick up my daughter from Bathwick when I finish work and then get to another school where a nursery class is held - this would be my preference for her care, so instead I send her to a nursery and she is not getting as structured an education as her sister was able to get in St Andrews nursery class which I felt was excellent.</p> |
| <p>I fail entirely to see how the third sector organisations which engage with children and young people can possibly fulfil the Government's 'Big Society' objectives while with the other hand local government financial support for these organisations is being drastically cut or even eliminated. I am a Trustee of Off the Record B&NES, and know well the value of the work that we do. (The 'Big Society' has been going on for many years, actually, Mr Cameron.) It seems almost impossible that we will be able to continue - let alone expand - all of our services for children and young people. B&NES has been funding our counselling service - which is core to everything we do - to the tune of £60,000 per year, and that funding is being entirely withdrawn. We are fighting hard, and will continue to do so, but we face an enormous task. The children and young people whom we serve will be the ones who lose out - not to mention our staff and our many volunteers. Find something else to cut, B&NES - don't wait until a young person is driven to some drastic measure because he or she no longer has the support of Off the Record.</p> |
| <p>As an Authority it is felt that BANES is one of the best with relation to childcare provision and has a good understanding of its main community and their needs. As a councillor the feedback I get is mainly positive, although there are areas of concern which I will address.</p> <p>Overall it is felt that BANES is both aware and on top of the statutory requirements in 2011.</p> <p>The areas of concern:</p> <p>I would like to see a new policy group concerned exclusively and independently of OFSTED constituted to vet all those who have contact with young children, above and beyond the existing regulation. Time after time I hear worry from parents and feel that worry is a major deterrent to taking up childcare opportunity and in so doing is a major deterrent to mothers in particular, seeking employment/further training.</p> <p>I cannot overstate the impact of the above, there is low confidence in the current situation</p> |

regarding child safety, recent high-profile cases-Birmingham for example- where OFSTED have so manifestly failed in their duty only fuel-and rightly so-parental concern. We want to see BANES doing more to reassurance.

Secondly, in rural areas the Youth provision is not of uniformly high quality, I'll cite Timsbury YC and Peasedown YC as underfunded and consequently under-performing, more young people would go if they were better. This is not a staffing criticism but a resources one.

Thirdly, both childcare and YC are not accessible to all my Parishioners due to the unreliability and high cost of transport, we could do with more outreach in both areas, we feel neglected to some extent by the Council in favour of the urban centres like Bath. This feeling has solid foundation and should be addressed. Personally I realise that resources need to be spent, especially in times of austerity, where they benefit the most people, but do feel that BANES have not quite got that balance right, it is worth taking a second look.

The same need for more outreach-and publicity of the services on offer needs to extend to the deprived urban areas as well, Snow Hill springs to mind. Although part of Bath there are many in those areas who feel cut-off and overlooked, even abandoned-a word I have heard used, there is a feeling "they don't care about us", that isn't true, but is an area where more effort needs to be made, particularly visibility

Finally, of course-cost of childcare is likely to rise and this is a problem for poorer families as we know. I urge all to keep the pressure on the government and continually monitor ourselves to maximise the assistance we can give these families. Helping to mobilise local charitable or residents' organisations (with regard perhaps to transport?) would help, as would assistance and local advice in forming self-help groups of various types, Faith groups can and are willing to help.

None of these can fill the economic hole, but they can make it less deep, we need, as an authority to seek out and muster all available resources at this time, not to merely fulfil our obligations, but to go further as an example to others. Dr Ian C E Hale.

The document says:

"childcare 8:00am - 6:00pm, 48 weeks a year for primary schools"

and

"100% of Bath and North East Somerset Schools offered the full core offer as at September 2010."

The primary school my children attend certainly does not offer 8-6 care outside school terms - and I question the accuracy of this statement for a number of other schools as well.

On a more general note, my experience is that finding childcare for school age children is fairly straightforward and there are plenty of options, but finding childcare for preschool children (and in particular 0-2 year olds) is far more difficult and you are much more likely to find that you are put on a waiting list or that they cannot accommodate the hours you have to work.

Table "Typical Working Patterns" on p7 of the Summary document, indicating interrelationships between parental occupation is misleading. Data should be only displayed for the top half of the table. My reasons are this: it doesn't matter who filled in the questionnaire, the important thing is showing the relationship between the occupations of Parent A vs Parent B. So, for example, it would be more useful to show that 10 families had Parent A in full-time work and Parent B looking for work, rather than saying "where the respondent was in Full-Time work, 2 had partners looking for work; and where the respondent was looking for work, 8 had partners in full-time work". It is an unnecessary complication of the data presentation.

On a more philosophical level, has the question been asked (I can't believe it hasn't) of "is it a good thing to encourage both parents to work at the expense of time with their children?" In my experience, children who do not have the benefit of extended time with good parental role models do suffer more with bad and unsociable behaviour. On a purely anecdotal level, many of the worst behaved children in our immediate area are those who do not benefit by having a parent to meet them after school, and who spend much of their time obviously bored and looking for something to do of an evening. I do not believe that "anybody" will do. In my experience, nothing compares to parental role models. We are very lucky. As two professionals, we have been able

to reduce our hours such that we do have that luxury, and I appreciate that we are very much in the minority. But I am sure studies would bear out this hypothesis, and would show, in turn, a commensurate reduction in social costs later on in adolescence and onwards.

Early years provision sounds great but too late for my kids who are 9 and 12!. Poor provision of interesting / relevant and local schemes for older kids skimmed over and not addressed. If activities have been taking place must have been poorly advertised as my kids at two different schools and never heard about anything from either school (and please when arranged not all sports related - don't assume all boys like football!!!).

It is vital that we invest in young people. Cutting services is a false saving as it would lead to greater expenditure in the long run, for example on health services and on the consequences of increased crime. It would also lead to a less fulfilled and contented society. I am especially interested in the work of Off The Record and its contribution to supporting young people in the area, helping them to improve their health, their ability to forge mature relationships, and their capacity to contribute to society. It also enables some to complete their education and thereby fulfill their potential. Cutting funding to such services is misguided and potentially damaging to the community.

On the whole I agree with the council's position and plans for the future. The one area that clearly needs further addressing though, is that of provision for disabled children. Although the numbers of views returned about personal assistants was low - the lower levels of satisfaction were quite striking when viewed against the generally very positive wider picture. As the number of disabled children holding a Personal Budget is likely to increase over the coming years, I think the Council should try to investigate the reasons behind the responses and seek to ensure that the quality and availability of childcare provided to disabled children is improved.

Thank you for the invitation to comment on this consultation. My children are now 15, 12 and 10. I last regularly used childcare between 14-6 years ago for pre-school care using a private nursery, a playgroup and a state school nursery class. I was satisfied with the childcare available then and was particularly pleased with the provision of childcare at the playgroup and the state school nursery (which has unfortunately since closed). Since my children started school I have not needed childcare as I have been able to arrange my working hours so I have been able to look after my children myself. I am aware that the primary school where my youngest child attends has an after-school club. During the last summer break from school my youngest child attended a holiday club run by the council at Weston and she really enjoyed this. The facilities available were great, the staff were fantastic and, as it was free, it represented great value for money! She attended this for entertainment rather than out of necessity. I hope these comments have been helpful.

Appendix I - Comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee 17th January 2011

The Panel RESOLVED to agree that:

- (i) Sufficient quality and sustainable childcare is important for a thriving local economy, both for the user and those employed in childcare.
- (ii) At a later date the Panel will review, comment and endorse the action plan arising from the final published Childcare Sufficiency Report 2011.

2011 Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Introductory vision

Bath and North East Somerset has a role to enable parents to access sufficient childcare provision to meet the requirements of parents in the local authority's area who require childcare in order to enable them to take up, or remain in work, or undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2011 - Key findings and recommendations

Key Findings

- there has been a notable increase in childcare provision since the last report with relatively stable population growth
- newly established provision may not always provide places where they are needed the most
- the Bath area has seen an influx of baby and very young age provision, however working families with pre school age children may experience difficulties finding provision which is totally flexible, although some providers offer holiday/breakfast/after-school provision alongside the provision for very young children
- the majority of providers are happy with the level of childcare in their local area, with the exception of Paulton and Chew Valley. The completion of the Children's Centres at Chew Valley and Paulton will help to alleviate the shortage in provision experienced by some families
- families with disabled children report encountering significantly greater difficulty in finding childcare across the whole of Bath and North East Somerset.

Recommendations

- the reports on the levels of provision contained within the childcare sufficiency assessment to be refreshed every 6 months, and the results published on the Bath and North East Somerset website
- the majority of providers are confident that their business is sustainable over the next two years. However, 42% of providers had seen a negative effect on their business from the current economic climate. Bath and North East Somerset should continue to monitor the impact of the economy on provision and provide strategies for market management in order to sustain existing quality provision, or in areas of shortfall to encourage new entrants into the childcare market
- to plan the expansion of the two year old funding from 10 hours per week to 15 hours per week term time only, to be implemented from 2013

- to evaluate the DCATCH initiative during 2011 and implement the recommended actions to improve the sufficiency of childcare for disabled children
- to publish an action plan in line with the childcare sufficiency report and will be reviewed every 6 months with an update on progress made and outcomes achieved

Priorities

In addition to the above the following are required to be planned for

- meeting the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) outcomes
- ensuring there are sufficient two year old places to enable take up of the two year old early education pilot as there is a lack of two year old provision in some areas, and a lack of good quality provision in some areas. This will be developed through Early Years Quality Improvement Support Programme (EYQISP) and the Baby Quality Scheme. This will therefore be a longer term target.
- ensuring there are sufficient three and four year old entitlement places within the guidelines of the Childcare Act 2006.
- using EYQISP to drive quality improvement in three and four year old entitlement provision.
- ensuring there are sufficient out of school places for working families by managing the demand for places and ensuring that settings are not created but then closing due to lack of demand
- improving the take up of tax credits
- supporting setting to achieve sustainability
- increase the number of Childminders where demand exists, ensuring that they are a sustainable long term business
- monitoring DCATCH outcomes which will increase parental confidence around provision for disabled children.

Action Plan

| Task | Timescale | Resources available | Team or officer responsible | Link to other Council strategies | Outcome |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Ensuring sufficient two year old places | 25% of two year old children by 2013 | Early Intervention Grant | Planning and Performance Team Early Years Foundation Stage Team | Children and Young People's Plan | 100% take up of funded places by eligible two year old children |
| Ensuring sufficient three and four year old entitlement places | Ongoing requirement since 2004 | Direct Schools Grant Early Intervention Grant | Planning and Performance Team | Children and Young People's Plan | 100% take up of early years entitlement places by three and four year old children |
| Increase the number of sustainable childminders in the most appropriate areas | 2011 to 2014 as required and monitored through the CSA | Early Intervention Grant | Childminding Support Team Family Information Service | Children and Young People's Plan Core Strategy Sustainable Community Strategy | Reduction in the areas of under supply |
| Increase provision in areas of under supply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Twerton ○ Paulton ○ Radstock | 2011 to 2014 as required and monitored through the CSA | Early Intervention Grant Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Planning and Performance Team | Children and Young People's Plan Core Strategy Sustainable | Opening of Children's Centres with childcare provision in Paulton and Radstock |

| Task | Timescale | Resources available | Team or officer responsible | Link to other Council strategies | Outcome |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | Community Strategy | Increase in provision for two year olds and three and four year old children in Twerton. |
| Continuation of market management and business support provision | 2011 to 2014 as required and monitored through the CSA | Early Intervention Grant Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Planning and Performance Team | Children and Young People's Plan Core Strategy Sustainable Community Strategy | Greater sustainability of provision across Bath and North East Somerset. Timely identification of areas of undersupply. |
| Positive marketing of childcare provider in gap areas | 2011 - 2014 | | Family Information Service | | New provision and more child places in areas of under provision |
| Continue to offer support to families, including take up of benefits | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention Grant | Family Information Service Children's Centres | Children and Young People's Plan | Monthly monitoring of outcomes see FIS Business Plan |
| Monitoring DCATCH outcomes | March 2011 | Early Intervention Grant | DCATCH steering group | Children and Young People's Plan | Summary Report 31 March 2011 |
| Continue to support new | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention | Planning and | Children and | Sustainable and |

| Task | Timescale | Resources available | Team or officer responsible | Link to other Council strategies | Outcome |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| provision and existing provision | | Grant | Performance Team Early Years Foundation Stage Team Family Information Service | Young People's Plan | developing provision across Bath and North East Somerset |
| Expansion of places following housing development from capital receipts from Planning Obligations (Section 106) developer contributions. | 2011 to 2014 | Planning Obligations (SPD) | Planning and Performance Team | Core Strategy Sustainable Community Strategy | |
| Produce twice yearly updates of sufficiency data by children's centre areas. | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention Grant | Planning and Performance Team | Children and Young People's Plan | |
| Continue to provide support to families to access appropriate childcare, continue to evaluate enquiries | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention Grant | Family Information Service | Children and Young People's Plan | Monthly monitoring of outcomes see FIS Business Plan |
| Design a voluntary register information pack to organisations seeking to set up Distribute a voluntary register information pack to organisations running and seeking to set up | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention Grant | Early Years Foundation Stage Team Family Information Service | Children and Young People's Plan | |

| Task | Timescale | Resources available | Team or officer responsible | Link to other Council strategies | Outcome |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| Provide more detailed information about nanny agencies to parents to enable greater informed choice | 2011 to 2014 | Early Intervention Grant | Family Information Service | Children and Young People's Plan | Providing an alternative to families not able to access provision locally |

Other strategies and plans which link to Childcare Sufficiency can be found in the following locations:

Children and Young People's Plan: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy/policiesplans/cypp/Pages/default.aspx>

Sustainable Community Strategy:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Community%20and%20Living/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy.pdf>

Core Strategy:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planning/localdevelopmentscheme/Pages/corestrategy.asp>