

Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report Autumn 2022

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 update of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report. This update report is produced at a time when it is still not clear what the long-term implications of the pandemic will be on the sector although after many months there are some clear indications of impact. These include:

- Reductions in overall attendance
- Reductions in hours attended when children are accessing provision
- Reduced provider income resulting from the above
- Future outcomes for children as a result of not attending

2. Supply of childcare - current providers as at Autumn 2022

Bath and North East Somerset Council has a range of childcare provision which is well distributed across the local authority area. We continue to offer training courses and support to individuals who are interested in becoming childminders.

Breakfast Club	42
Childminder**	91
Day Nursery	66
Home Childcarer	48
Independent Nursery School	5
Non Registered Holiday Scheme	8
Playgroup or Pre-School	17
Registered After School Care	54
Registered Holiday Scheme	26
Maintained School Nursery Class	2
Specialist Service Provider	17
Total Providers	376

** Currently registered Childminders, does not include proposed Childminders. Of those who currently have children, the number of children cared for are well below their registered capacity.

3. Recruitment and retention of staff in Early Years Education and Childcare

Recruitment and retention were an emerging issue in the sector prior to the pandemic but post pandemic they are now impacting nationally across the whole sector. In Bath and North East Somerset, the impact has seen a number of providers reduce the number of children attending so they can operate within the minimum ratios and the shortage of staff has also closed settings.

There are a number of factors that can be seen to be contributing to what many now see as a crisis including:

- An aging workforce in parts of the sector, particularly senior leadership
- Employees re-evaluating their career options following Covid
- Poor salaries and long hours in the sector
- A competitive employment market making jobs in alternative careers attractive
- The regulatory pressure applied to the sector
- The “cost of living” crisis

The Department for Education recently set up a team to look at the recruitment and retention issues faced by the sector, although to date they have been gathering evidence and no actions have been taken.

4. Birth rate and resident data

4.1 Birth rate data by Academic Year

Children's Centre Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-2022
Chew Valley	134	126	113	131	126	126	117	151	150	153	177	161
Keynsham	207	175	190	185	179	220	181	231	227	254	263	289
Midsomer Norton	140	160	129	121	153	152	127	149	126	125	102	107
Moorlands	163	171	185	185	172	177	153	141	156	163	158	165
Parkside	289	287	277	236	227	220	207	205	201	215	195	212
Paulton	120	127	137	120	150	140	153	128	141	136	129	132
Peasedown St John	113	117	109	114	90	104	87	99	98	89	91	106
Radstock	147	130	161	167	133	161	124	145	134	140	122	138
St Martins	202	196	192	201	198	181	186	196	189	196	192	174
Twerton	149	170	148	140	130	151	167	130	113	129	121	107
Weston	166	170	156	147	163	155	136	139	131	124	147	131
Total	1832	1831	1797	1747	1721	1787	1608	1714	1666	1724	1697	1722

The birth rate for the academic year 2021-2022 has increased slightly and is more in-line with 2019-2020 figures

5. Childcare Places

The number of places is calculated in ratio to the estimated number of children and then subdivided by Children's Centre area to produce an analysis by smaller geographical area. When required this information can be broken down further as far as individual super output areas, a size measurement area produced by criteria from the Office of National Statistics.

5.1 Without Home Childcarers

	September 2022	September 2022	September 2022	March 2022	March 2022
Children's Centre Area	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	641	2462	0.26	601	0.24
Keynsham	786	3473	0.23	802	0.24
Midsomer Norton	630	1866	0.34	630	0.34
Moorlands	508	2119	0.24	505	0.24
Parkside	915	2697	0.34	945	0.35
Paulton	270	1757	0.15	296	0.17
Peasedown St John	411	1403	0.29	392	0.28
Radstock	234	1708	0.14	225	0.13
St Martins	695	2924	0.24	698	0.24
Twerton	266	1437	0.19	263	0.18
Weston	734	2256	0.33	783	0.35
Total	6090	24102	0.25	6155	0.26

5.2 With Home Childcarers

	September 2022	September 2022	September 2022	March 2022	March 2022
Children's Centre Area	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	662	2462	0.27	622	0.27
Keynsham	791	3473	0.23	807	0.24
Midsomer Norton	635	1866	0.34	635	0.34
Moorlands	536	2119	0.25	533	0.26
Parkside	934	2697	0.35	964	0.35
Paulton	279	1757	0.16	305	0.17
Peasedown St John	419	1403	0.30	400	0.30
Radstock	236	1708	0.14	227	0.13
St Martins	706	2924	0.24	709	0.24
Twerton	268	1437	0.19	265	0.18
Weston	744	2256	0.33	793	0.35
Total	6210	24102	0.26	6277	0.26

Paulton and Radstock Children’s Centre areas have the lowest levels of childcare provision. There have been significant new housing developments in the Radstock and Paulton areas which has contributed to the ratio of childcare places remaining lower than other areas within Bath and North East Somerset. The Council continues to monitor these levels alongside demand for new provision in Bath and North East Somerset Council resulting from new housing.

6. Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year old children

6.1 3 and 4 year old provision

Bath and North East Somerset Council continues to have a sufficient level of places in most areas but this does vary by Children’s Centre area with 7 out of 11 areas having an excess of supply. Areas of undersupply continue to be monitored in order to close the gap between supply and demand.

	September 2022	September 2022	September 2022	March 2022	March 2022	March 2022
Childrens Centre	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio
Chew Valley	394	415	1.05	380	405	1.06
Keynsham	545	513	0.94	535	533	1.00
Midsomer Norton	302	345	1.14	292	345	1.18
Moorlands	356	244	0.69	246	244	0.99
Parkside	395	412	1.04	395	442	1.12
Paulton	289	162	0.56	288	182	0.63
Peasedown	207	223	1.07	203	219	1.12
Radstock	266	169	0.64	266	166	0.63
St Martins	456	373	0.82	449	372	1.08
Twerton	229	187	0.82	231	186	0.83
Weston	338	329	0.97	324	380	1.17
Total	3777	3371	0.89	3609	3471	0.96

The estimated number of EYE eligible children does not include children who have delayed their start at school, which is at its highest level this September 2022 which will have an impact on EYE places available

Due to recent nursery/pre-school closures in Paulton, Weston, Keynsham and Central Bath, the ratio of childcare places to children has reduced in these areas. It is anticipated that new provision will open in the near future in some of these premises which will result in an upturn in provision again.

6.2 2 year old provision

The take up of 2 year funding remained high with 275 children accessing the funding in the Autumn 2022 term, and this number will continue to increase throughout the funding year.

We continue to work with colleagues and childcare providers to promote the funding to families across Bath and North East Somerset.

In the recent Department for Education statistical analysis of take across the country, Bath and North East Somerset performed very well, being the second highest local authority in the South West at placing eligible children in 2 year funded places.

South West Region



6.3 Early Years Pupil Premium

Since April 2015 the Early Years Pupil Premium worth up to £300 became available for an estimated 325 children accessing their 3 and 4 year old entitlement. The main eligibility criteria are the family income in the same way that the school Pupil Premium has been allocated for children from reception age upwards. This funding is targeted to help narrow the gap in attainment between the children in low income families whose learning outcomes from pre-school through into school and beyond are typically lower than the rest of their peer cohort. In April 2022 the Department for Education increased the premium for the first time to a maximum of £342.

Take up of the Early Years Pupil Premium has continued to be high since the start of 2016 with a total of 185 eligible children receiving the funding in the Autumn 2022 term, and this number will continue to increase throughout the funding year

7. 30 hours Early Years Entitlement offer for working families

From 1st September 2017, approximately 1308 families were deemed as eligible by the Department for Education for the extended early year's entitlement in Bath and North East Somerset.

In the Autumn 2022 term, 983 children accessed additional hours, and this number will continue to increase throughout the funding year. Bath and North East Somerset is currently among the highest performing Local Authorities in the South West for the take up of 30 hour funding in relation to the number of codes issued and then verified by a provider, and one of the highest performing Local Authorities nationally. Parents and families can find more information on the new childcare offers on the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

8. Nursery costs for under two year olds

The Guardian reported on 7th October 2022 that nursery for under-tuos costs parents in England 65% of one salary.

Full-time nursery for children under the age of two costs almost two-thirds of a parent's weekly take-home pay in England, according to new analysis. The analysis uses the Coram family and childcare survey (<https://www.coram.org.uk/resource/coram-family-and-childcare-survey-2022>) alongside the Office for National Statistics (ONS) income data (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/earningsandhoursworkedallemployeesashtable8>) .

Figures from the (ONS) show that the number of women not working to look after family has risen by 5% in the past year, the first sustained increase in at least 30 years.