

# **Childcare in Somerset**

## **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2018 Update**

**Somerset County Council**

**Early Years Commissioning Team**

**September 2018**

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# **Introduction**

## **Introduction to the 2018 Update**

This report provides an update to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017. Where new information and more recent data is available, this has been included in the report. Background information and data that has not been updated since 2017 has not been included and can be found in the CSA 2017.

The way the demand and supply of places is calculated has been reviewed and changed since the publication of the CSA 2017. This means that a direct comparison between demand and supply between 2017 and 2018 cannot be made. The new way of calculating demand and supply should be more accurate and makes the supply and demand of places directly comparable.

The data on the demand and supply of places included in this report is intended as the basis for deciding where in the county additional EY places may need to be commissioned.

Somerset's Early Years Vision 2015-2020 and the commissioning priorities and actions for 2017-2020 can be found in the CSA 2017.

## **Legislation and entitlements**

The Childcare Act (2006) requires Local Authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children. Childcare sufficiency relates to the provision of registered childcare for children aged 0-14 years old, and up to 18 years old for disabled children and children with additional needs.

The Childcare Act (2006) also requires Local Authorities to ensure early years provision is available free of charge to each young child that is eligible. The universal entitlement provides funded childcare up to a maximum of 15 hours a week for 38 weeks – or 570 hours per year – for eligible 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds.

The Childcare Act (2016) became law in March 2016 and introduced the extended entitlement of an additional 570 hours of funded childcare per year for 3 and 4 year olds in eligible families, from September 2017. To be eligible, both parents (or the lone parent in a single parent family) must be working and earning from around £120 per week up to a maximum of £100,000 per year. The demand for funded childcare places was expected to increase as a result of the new entitlement.

More detailed information about the legislation regarding the provision of funded childcare can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

## **Contributions towards EY provision from new developments**

When new housing developments are approved, contributions are sought by the LA towards the provision of additional early years places, for eligible children, as required. Where primary schools are provided as part of a development, a 26 or 52 place nursery is included, depending on the size of the school.

Somerset County Council currently seeks contributions towards providing five early years places per 100 new dwellings. This has increased from 3.5 early years places per 100 new dwellings since the CSA 2017 was published, due to the introduction of the extended entitlement, increasing the number of places required for eligible children.

The amount requested per place is £17,074 (SCC Cost Multiplier, 2018).

## Part 1: Somerset – area context

### Population

The latest estimate of the population of Somerset is 555,195<sup>1</sup>, up 9805 from 545,390 in mid-2016. All districts saw an increase in population, with Taunton Deane seeing the largest increase. Most of the growth resulted from inward migration from other parts of the country, particularly from the county's neighbouring authorities.

However, the proportion of early years aged children fell overall, in all districts except Taunton Deane which had a very small increase. This means that the population of Somerset is aging; the 65-74 age group showed the largest increase in population.

Population information for Somerset 2017-18 (sources: see below)

District	Total Population <sup>1</sup>	Change since 2016	Population 0-4YO <sup>2</sup>	% Pop'n 0-4YO	Change since 2016
Mendip	113,513	+1.6%	5583	4.9%	-0.2%
Sedgemoor	122,178	+1.6%	6408	5.2%	-0.3%
South Somerset	167,216	+1.3%	8387	5.0%	-0.3%
Taunton Deane	117,423	+3.0%	6283	5.4%	+0.1%
West Somerset	34,865	+1.3%	1278	3.7%	-0.2%
<b>Totals/average:</b>	<b>555,195</b>	<b>+1.8%</b>	<b>27,939</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Mid-year estimate 2017 (based on Census 2011)

<sup>2</sup>GP Registration figures January 2018

### Economy, employment and earnings

Somerset has a mixed economy of agriculture, tourism and manufacturing. Employment in the county has increased in the past few years and was boosted by the decision to go ahead with the construction of the new reactor at Hinkley Point. Somerset's largest sector in employment terms is health, followed by manufacturing and retail. Most of the county's jobs - 30% - are in South Somerset with only 5% in West Somerset.

There were 269,300 economically active adults (aged 16 and over) in Somerset in March 2018. This is 78.9% of the adult population, slightly above the national figure of 78.4%. In 2016, a greater proportion of the employed people in Somerset worked part-time (36%) compared with the national average (32%).

There is a higher proportion of economically inactive women aged 16-64 than men, both in Somerset and nationally. Looking after family or the home accounts for the largest group of economically inactive people behind students and will include women taking career breaks to raise children. The introduction of the extended entitlement aimed to enable parents to take up employment or increase their hours if they were already working by funding an increased amount of childcare.

Average earnings in Somerset are £26,532 compared with the UK average of £28,758.

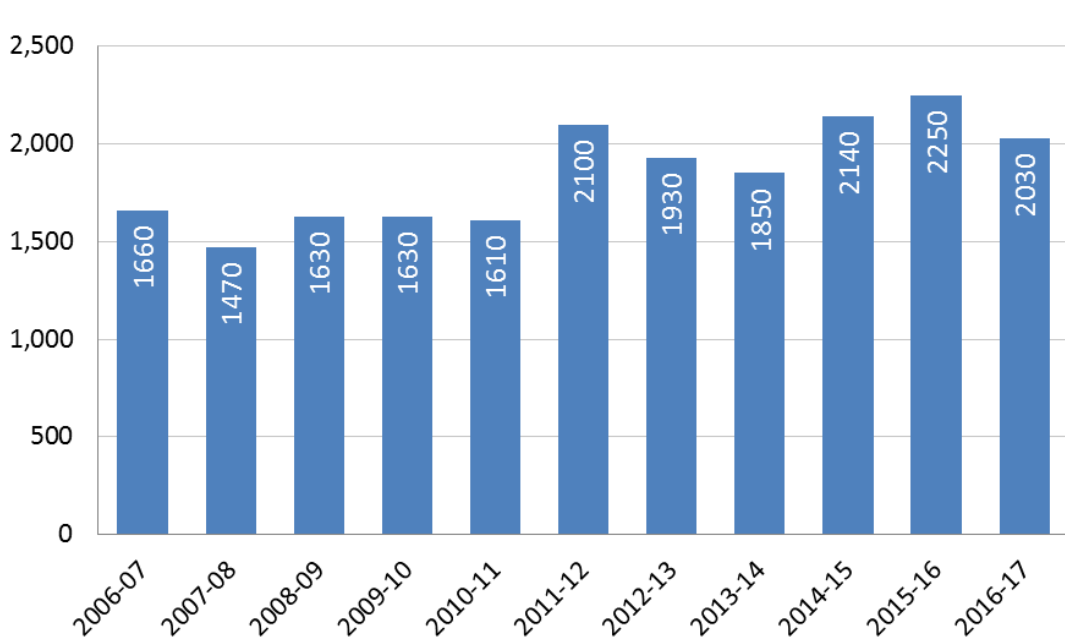
Sources: Somerset Intelligence Employment and Economic Activity November 2017; Office for National Statistics Labour Market Profile - Somerset 2017.

## New housing

Since 2006-07, around 20,000 new homes have been completed in Somerset. There was a slight drop in the number of homes built in 2016-17 compared with the previous two years. The majority of new homes were in the urban areas of Bridgwater, Taunton and Yeovil and a further 20,000 homes are expected in these areas over the next 10-15 years.

### Number of new dwellings completed in Somerset

Source: Somerset Intelligence (Dept. for Communities & Local Government) 2017



## Impacts on childcare provision

Although Somerset's population grew over the last year, the number of early years aged children decreased by 712, a fall of 2.5%. With the considerable number of houses being built in the urban areas, and a general trend of a decreasing and aging population in rural areas, the distribution of early years aged children is likely to change, becoming increasingly concentrated in the urban areas.

This pattern is likely to increase the vulnerability of providers in rural areas, and a significant number of smaller rural settings have applied for sustainability funding. It will also increase the demand for places in urban areas. If housing developments are large enough to require a new school, a nursery will be included for the early years aged children.

The introduction of the extended entitlement is expected to increase the demand for places. More time is required before the impact of the offer will be seen in the working patterns of parents.

## Part 2: Early Years and childcare providers

### Number of providers

In Somerset, as at 07 August 2018, there were 287 childminders (including six 'childcare on domestic premises' settings) and 315 group childcare settings, a net reduction of 45 childminders and one group provider since July 2017. Please see Appendix 1 for definitions.

Number of childcare providers by type 2017 & 2018 (source: SCC 2018)

Type of childcare	2017 (as 04.07.17)		2018 (as 07.08.18)	
	No. of providers	No. of 0-4YO places*	No. of providers	No. of 0-4YO places*
Childminder	326	1106	281	1124
Childcare on domestic premises	6	114	6	130
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>1220</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>1254</i>
Nursery / pre-school: private or voluntary run	224	7191	208	6818
Nursery / pre-school: maintained school run	51	1379	57	1624
Nursery / pre-school: academy run	28	829	37	1087
Nursery / pre-school: independent school run	13	404	13	462
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>316</i>	<i>9803</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>9991</i>
<b>All provision</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>11023</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>11245</b>

\*Number of registered places for 0-4 year olds

Note: The number of places data is not available for all childminders

### Points of interest

- The number of childminders has decreased by 45 - 14% - since July 2017, continuing a trend seen since June 2011. This also reflects the national trend which has seen the number of childminders in England drop by 27% since 2012 (source: Pre-School Learning Alliance, from Ofsted, March 2018).
- Although the number of childminders has decreased, it appears that the number of childminder places has increased slightly. This could be a result of more accurate data or an increase in the number of childminders using assistants which would allow them to care for more children at one time.
- The number of group childcare settings has remained stable but the number of places available has increased by almost 200 since 2017. It is likely that the settings that have closed are the smaller ones, who are more likely to have sustainability issues. Several settings were expanded last year to provide places for the increased demand expected from the introduction of the extended entitlement, using DfE funding.
- The trend for schools and academies taking over the management of previously private or voluntary groups on their sites has continued: the proportion of private and voluntary groups has decreased to 66% from 71% in 2017. All new primary schools that open have pre-schools included.

- Since the beginning of 2018, three nurseries in Somerset have closed, one at a school (Rode) and two privately owned (in Frome and Wellington). Six new nurseries have opened: four at primary schools (Othey, Hatch Beauchamp, Northgate in Bridgwater and Kingfisher in Yeovil) along with two private settings, in Frome and Norton Fitzwarren.

## Providers offering funded places

Providers can choose whether to register to offer funded childcare places for the universal and extended entitlements.

Funded vs. non-funded providers by type (source: SCC 2018)

Type of childcare	Number of providers	Providers offering universal entitlement	Providers not offering funded places	Providers offering extended entitlement
Childminder	281	188 (67%)*	93 (33%)	175 (62%)*
Childcare on domestic premises	6	6 (100%)	0	6 (100%)
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>194 (68%)</i>	<i>93 (32%)</i>	<i>181 (63%)</i>
Nursery / pre-school: private / voluntary run	208	208 (100%)	0	192 (92%)
Nursery / pre-school: maintained school run	57	57 (100%)	0	57 (100%)
Nursery / pre-school: academy run	37	37 (100%)	0	35 (95%)
Nursery / pre-school: independent school run	13	13 (100%)	0	10 (77%)
<i>Sub-total:</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>315 (100%)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>294 (93%)</i>
<b>All provision</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>509 (85%)</b>	<b>93 (15%)</b>	<b>475 (79%)</b>

\*Proportion of all providers

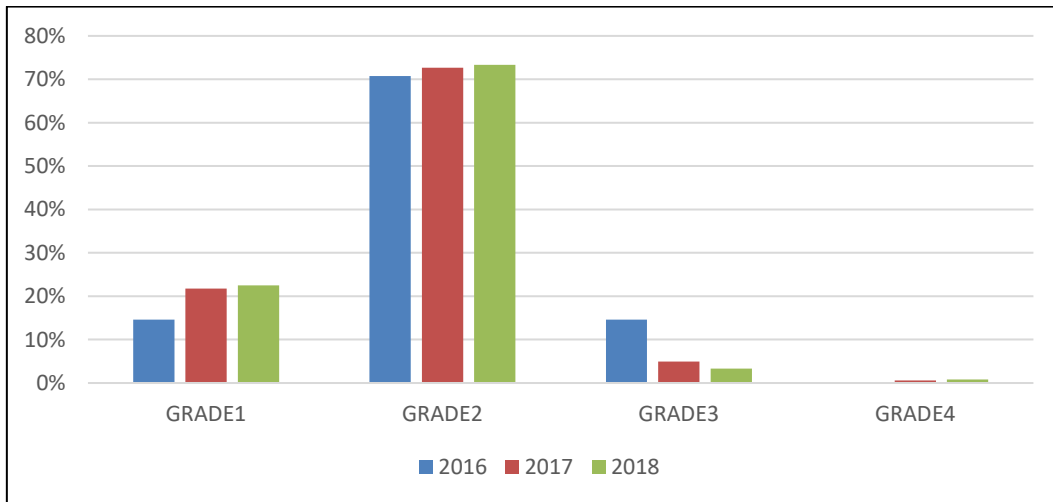
## Points of interest

- The proportion of childminders offering the universal entitlement has increased to 67% from 55% in 2017. Of the childminders that offer universal entitlement places, 93% offer extended entitlement places.
- All the childcare on domestic premises settings offer both universal and extended entitlement places.
- All group childcare settings offer universal entitlement places. All maintained school nurseries offer extended entitlement places, along with 95% of academy run nurseries and 77% of independent school nurseries. Overall, 93% of nurseries / pre-schools offer extended entitlement places.
- Nationally, reasons providers give for not offering the extended entitlement include the level of funding being too low, not being open for 30 hours a week, perceived lack of demand from parents, not looking after children aged 3 or 4 (childminders), too much additional administration and the inability to expand or move premises. The full report can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-final-evaluation-of-the-national-rollout](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-final-evaluation-of-the-national-rollout).

## Quality of childcare

In Somerset, as at 07 August 2018, 96% of providers that have an Ofsted grade (460 of 480) were rated Outstanding (Grade 1) or Good (Grade 2). This is up slightly from 95% in July 2017. There are 16 providers (3%) rated Requires Improvement (Grade 3) and four (1%) rated Inadequate (Grade 4).

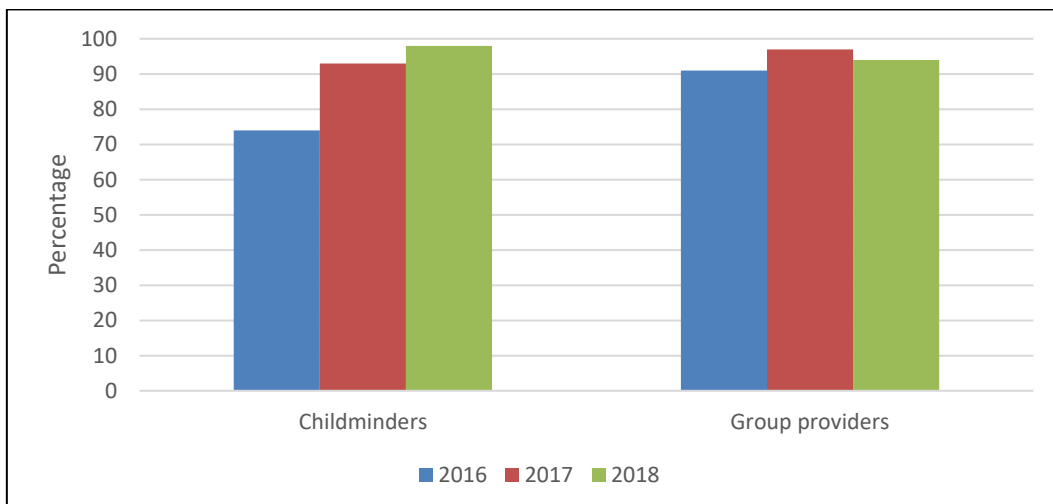
Proportion of providers by Ofsted grade 2016 – 2018 (source: SCC 2018)



### Points of interest

- Since 2016, there has been an increase in the number of Good and Outstanding providers, although the increase between 2017 and 2018 was smaller than that between 2016 and 2017. As at August 2018, 95.8% of graded providers were rated Good or Outstanding, up from 94.5% in July 2017.
- The number of providers rated Requires Improvement decreased again between 2017 and 2018. There was a small increase in the number of providers rated Inadequate, although the number is still low (four: one childminder and three group settings).
- The number of providers without an Ofsted grade has increased again over the last year, up to 83 from 60 in 2017. Many new settings and those that are now managed by schools or academies have not yet been inspected.

Percentage of providers graded Good or Outstanding by type of provider 2016 - 2018 (source: SCC 2018)





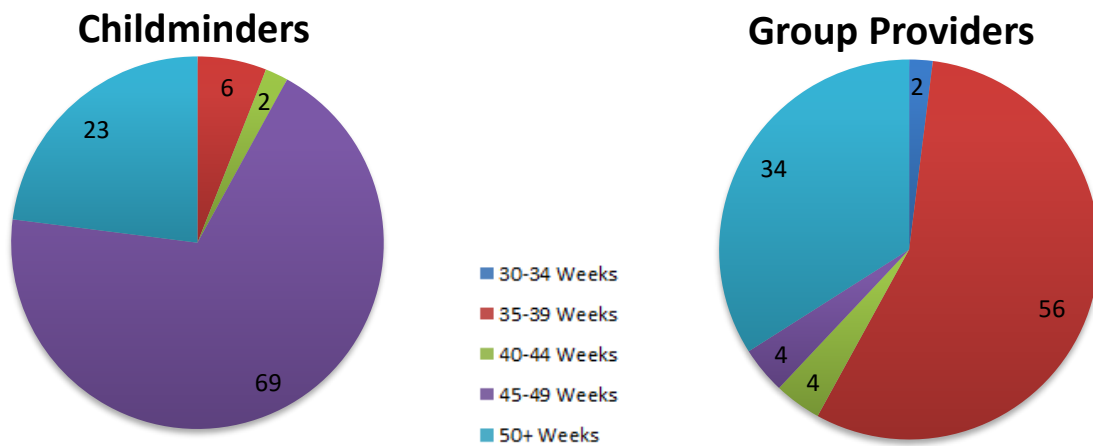
## Points of interest

- The improvement in the quality of childminders has driven the overall increase in quality of providers in Somerset over the last year. The number of group providers rated Good or Outstanding decreased slightly since 2017.
- The proportion of Good and Outstanding settings in Somerset (95.8%) is slightly above that of the south-west (95.5%) and above that of England (94.2%) (source: Ofsted: Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2018).

## Availability of childcare

The availability and flexibility of childcare includes the number of weeks a year and the number of hours per week the settings are open. Also important is the hours of opening; there is a small but significant demand for childcare outside 'normal' working hours because of shift work and an increasing demand for flexible working patterns.

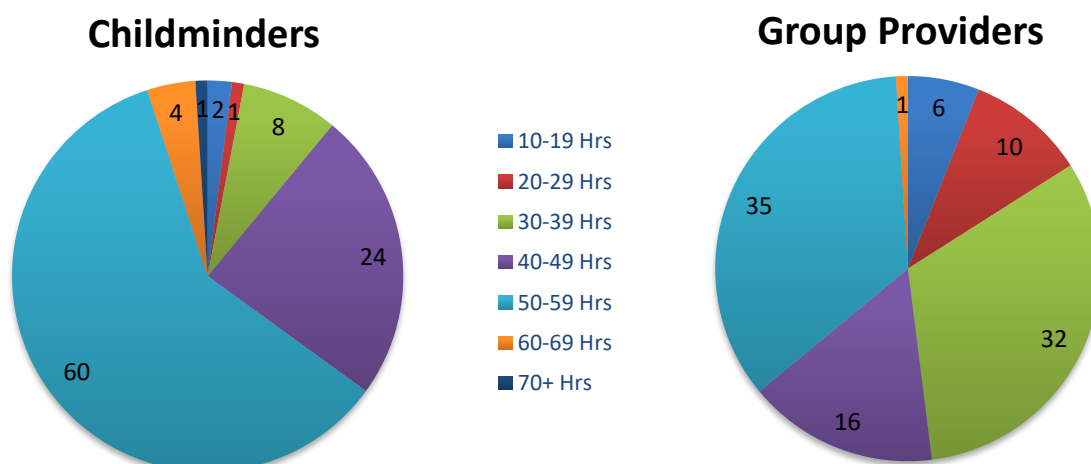
Weeks open per year: percentage of providers by type 2018 (source: SCC 2018)



## Points of interest

- Since 2017, the proportion of childminders open for 45-49 weeks has increased and the number of childminders open for more than this has decreased. This could be due to more accurate information or could be because childminders are choosing not to open all year.
- The proportion of group providers open for the number of weeks in each category has remained the same since 2017.

Hours open per week: percentage of providers by type 2018 (source: SCC 2018)



## Points of interest

- The proportion of childminders open for the number of hours in each category has remained more-or-less the same since 2017.
- The number of group providers open for 20-29 weeks decreased from 15 to 10 in the last year. The smaller settings tend to be open for fewer hours and it is possible that these have closed as they are more vulnerable than larger settings.
- The number of group providers open for 30-39 weeks increased from 28 to 32 in the last year. These are the providers that are open term time only and suggests the number of settings managed by schools has increased.

## Childcare costs

Average hourly rates of childminders and group settings by children's age and district (source: SCC 2018)

District	Child-minders	Group settings			
		0-2 YOs incl. indep.	0-2 YOs <i>excl. indep.</i>	3&4 YOs incl. indep.	3&4 YOs <i>excl. indep.</i>
Mendip	£4.24	£4.50	£4.49	£4.40	£4.34
Sedgemoor	£4.07	£4.52	<i>n/a</i>	£4.31	<i>n/a</i>
South Somerset	£4.05	£4.27	£4.25	£4.16	£4.14
Taunton Deane	£4.07	£4.44	£4.40	£4.28	£4.24
West Somerset	£3.98	£3.87	<i>n/a</i>	£3.83	<i>n/a</i>
<b>SOMERSET</b>	<b>£4.10</b>	<b>£4.38</b>	<b>£4.37</b>	<b>£4.25</b>	<b>£4.22</b>

## Points of interest

- The average cost of a childminder in Somerset is £4.11 per hour, up from £3.95 per hour last year. The majority of childminders charge the same regardless of the age of the child; a few charge less for 3 and 4 year olds. The cost ranges from a minimum of £2.30 to a maximum of £5.50 per hour, with the most common charge being £4 per hour.
- Group childcare settings tend to charge different rates depending on the age of the child, usually the younger the child the higher the cost. In Somerset, the average cost at a group setting is £4.38 per hour for 0-2 year olds (up from £4.11 last year) and £4.25 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds (up from £4.01 last year). The cost ranges from £2.30 per hour to a maximum of £6.89 per hour, with the most common charge also £4 per hour.
- The independent school nurseries have a higher average charge than the private, voluntary and maintained nurseries. The average cost of an independent school nursery place is £5.03 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds, down from £5.29 last year.

## Part 3: Sufficiency of childcare places

### Early Years population

In January 2018, the population of Early Years aged children in Somerset was estimated to be 27,939, a reduction of 712 from January 2017. The figures come from GP registrations and the number of 0 year old children is likely to be an underestimate due to delays in some children being registered. The actual number of 0 year olds is likely to be approximately 10% higher at around 5486. The calculated demand for childcare places will be an underestimate and should be treated as the minimum number required.

#### Population of Early Years aged children in Somerset by age 2018

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	4987	5452	5820	5817	5863	27939

Source: NHS Somerset GP registrations January 2018

### Whole county demand and supply

The way the demand and supply of childcare places are calculated has changed since the 2017 report. The previous formulae were based on out-of-date assumptions and did not take into account the introduction of the extended entitlement offer. Updating the formulae also provided an opportunity to improve the comparison of supply and demand.

The estimated demand is that for the proportion of 0-2 and 3-4 year olds who use childcare and is expressed in 30 hour full time equivalent (FTE) places (a working week of five six-hour days = 30 hours per week). The supply of places is those available for 0-2 and 3-4 year olds and is also expressed in 30 hour FTE places. See Appendix 2 for methodology.

The sufficiency assessments in this report are categorised as follows:

Category	Sufficiency	Description
	Sufficient	Sufficient and at least 10% surplus places
	Sufficient	Sufficient but fewer than 10% surplus places
	Insufficient	Supply of places less than demand

Surplus places in an area should allow for parental choice and the ability of parents to choose the childcare that meets their needs. However, too many surplus places could threaten the viability of some settings.

Based on national usage rates, the current demand and supply of places for the whole county is shown in the table below (August 2018).

	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	4049	6741	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	5299	9255	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	6955	9255	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	8699	9255	Sufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 322 children <b>into</b> county to access funded places			

Across the county, there are a sufficient number of childcare places for both 0-2 year olds and 3-4 year olds. In the summer term, when the demand for 3-4 year olds places is highest, the proportion of surplus places is below 10%, meaning that parental choice in some areas will be limited. More children came into the county from neighbouring authorities to access childcare provision than left it.

The picture across the county will mask differences between regions and between urban and rural areas. Providers tend to be concentrated in the urban areas and parents in rural areas may have to travel some distance to access the childcare that meets their needs.

The county is divided into its five districts for the purposes of more detailed supply and demand calculations, which are detailed on the following pages.

## Occupancy and vacancy rates

Data on occupancy and 'live' vacancy rates are not yet collected in Somerset. For sufficiency purposes, full occupancy is assumed when calculating the supply of places. Therefore, the following data may be influenced by factors such as parental preference between providers in each community, the number of staff employed at providers to fulfil ratios, the occupancy policies of individual providers and when parents are able to access funded entitlement places.

## Mendip

### Introduction and population

Mendip comprises 66 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which nine are in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. These deprived areas are concentrated in Frome but are also found in the other urban centres of Shepton Mallet, Street, Glastonbury and Wells.

The Early Years aged population of Mendip is 5583, down 157 from 5740 in 2017.

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	988	1070	1219	1173	1133	5583

### Supply and demand of childcare places

Based on national usage rates, the current situation is:

	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	182	278	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	233	421	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	308	421	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	384	421	Sufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 94 children <b>into</b> district to access funded places			





Across Mendip there are a sufficient number of childcare places for 0-4 year olds, with at least 10% more places than are estimated to be required. Overall, more children came into the district to access childcare than left it; this is likely to be from other Somerset districts and from neighbouring authorities.

## Sufficiency in selected towns

### Frome

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		Between 10% and 15% surplus places
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient		Supply is 91% of demand (48 places req'd)


### Glastonbury

0-2YO places:	Sufficient	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient	





### Shepton Mallet

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Insufficient		Supply is 96% of demand (7 places req'd)
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient		Supply is 76% of demand (46 places req'd)

### Street

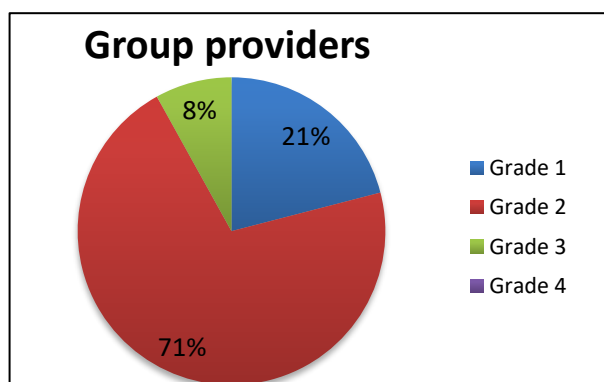
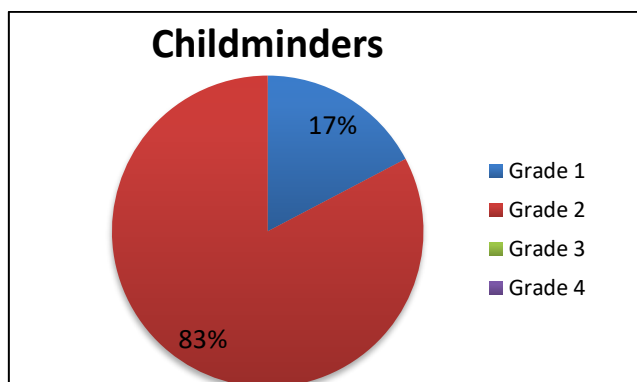
0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient		Fewer than 10% surplus places

### Wells

0-2YO places:	Sufficient	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient	

## Quality of childcare provision

Overall, 96% of graded providers in Mendip are rated Good or Outstanding (August 2018). All the childminders are rated Good or Outstanding, along with 92% of group providers. Five group providers (8%) are rated Requires Improvement.



## New housing

There are a number of new housing developments either approved or pending approval across Mendip, plus further developments in the pipeline.

Housing Developments	No. of dwellings		Number of EY places required (approved + pipeline)	Total number of EY places required
	Approved / pending	Pipeline		
Frome	1052	731	53 + 37	90
Glastonbury	251	150	13 + 8	21
Street	169	872	8 + 44	52
Shepton Mallet	201	1299	10 + 65	75
Wells	765	325	38 + 16	54
Rural Mendip	514	168	26 + 8	34
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2952</b>	<b>3545</b>	<b>148 + 178</b>	<b>326</b>

The number of houses planned for Frome and Shepton Mallet in particular will put pressure on the settings here, where there are already insufficiencies.

## Summary

Overall, Mendip has a sufficient number of childcare places, with at least 10% surplus places for all ages. However, the data suggests that Frome and Shepton Mallet may be short of places for 3-4 year olds in the terms when demand is at its highest. If all the proposed and pipeline housing is built, additional early years places – particularly for 3-4 year olds – are likely to be required.

Outside the main towns there is a scattered network of providers across rural Mendip. Whilst many rural communities are served by a pre-school or nursery, some parents in rural areas will have to travel to access childcare. Parents may not have access to childcare that suits their working pattern and parents without transport may find it difficult to access childcare at all. For example, the pre-school in Priddy closed recently with the children here offered places at the setting in Westbury-sub-Mendip.

## Sedgemoor

### Introduction and population

Sedgemoor comprises 70 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which 17 are in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. Fourteen of these deprived areas are concentrated in Bridgwater (including the most deprived LSOA in the county), with the remaining three in Burnham and Highbridge.

The Early Years aged population of Sedgemoor is 6408, down 162 from 6570 in 2017.

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	1089	1258	1354	1344	1363	6408

## Supply and demand of childcare places

Based on national usage rates, the current situation is:

	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	919	1404	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	1223	2034	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	1608	2034	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	2012	2034	Sufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 6 children <b>into</b> district to access funded places			

Across Sedgemoor there are a sufficient number of childcare places for 0-4 year olds. For 0-2 year olds and 3-4 year olds in the autumn and spring terms there are at least 10% more places; however, there are fewer than 10% surplus places in the summer term.

### Sufficiency in selected towns

#### Cheddar

0-2YO places:	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 71% of demand (10 places req'd)
3&4YO (autumn):	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 69% of demand (17 places req'd)
3&4YO (spring):	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 56% of demand (29 places req'd)
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 47% of demand (41 places req'd)

#### Bridgwater

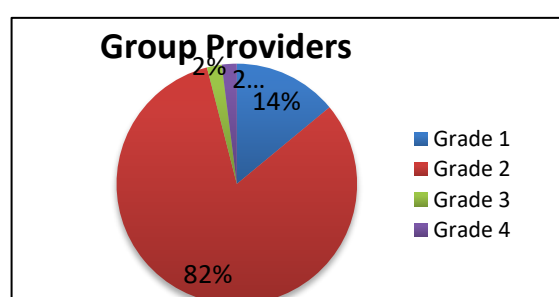
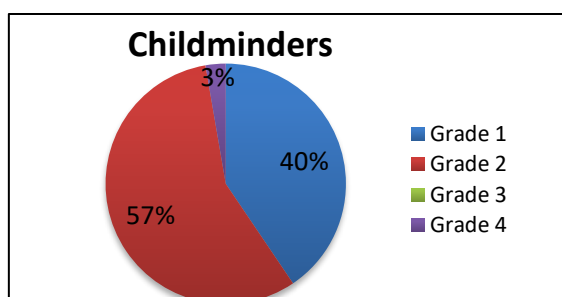
0-2YO places:	Sufficient	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Fewer than 10% surplus places
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 87% of demand (115 places req'd)

#### Burnham & Highbridge

0-2YO places:	Sufficient	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Fewer than 10% surplus places
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Supply is 86% of demand (42 places req'd)

### Quality of childcare provision

Overall, 97% of graded providers in Sedgemoor are rated Good or Outstanding (August 2018). 97% of childminders and 96% of group providers are rated Good or Outstanding. There is one Inadequate childminder, one group provider rated Requires Improvement and another rated Inadequate.



## New housing

There are a number of new housing developments either approved or pending approval across Sedgemoor, plus further developments in the pipeline. Bridgwater in particular is a key site for meeting the Government's target for building new homes.

Housing Developments	No. of dwellings		Number of EY places required (approved + pipeline)	Total number of EY places required
	Approved / pending	Pipeline		
Bridgwater	3254	2760	163 + 138	301
Burnham & Highbridge	872	821	44 + 41	85
Cheddar	477	279	24 + 14	38
Rural Sedgemoor	465	629	23 + 31	54
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5068</b>	<b>4489</b>	<b>254 + 224</b>	<b>478</b>

\*Including urban extensions

The number of houses planned for Bridgwater in particular will put pressure on the settings here, where there are already insufficiencies. Both Burnham / Highbridge and Cheddar also currently have an insufficient number of places.

## Summary

Overall, Sedgemoor has a sufficient number of childcare places for all ages, although there are fewer than 10% surplus places for 3-4 year olds in the summer term. However, the data suggests that Cheddar is short of places for all ages, and Bridgwater and Burnham / Highbridge may be short of places for 3-4 year olds in the terms when demand is at its highest. Cheddar is close to the border with Mendip and North Somerset and parents may be accessing places here.

If all the proposed and pipeline housing is built, additional early years places – particularly in Bridgwater and for 3-4 year olds – are likely to be required.

Outside Bridgwater and Burnham-on-Sea there is a scattered network of providers across rural Sedgemoor. Whilst many rural communities are served by a pre-school or nursery, some parents in rural areas will have to travel to access childcare. Parents here may not have access to childcare that suits their working pattern and parents without transport may find it difficult to access childcare at all.

Sedgemoor has a higher concentration of economic disadvantage than any other district in Somerset. Where there are higher levels of disadvantage there is often a lower demand for childcare as families have less need and a reduced ability to pay for childcare. The universal offer and extended entitlement should enable more families in these areas to access childcare and potentially take up employment.

## South Somerset

### Introduction and population

Sedgemoor comprises 103 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which 12 are in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. Eight of these deprived areas are concentrated in Yeovil, with the remaining four in Chard and Martock.



The Early Years aged population of South Somerset is 8387, down 280 from 8667 in 2017.

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	1520	1657	1669	1744	1797	8387

## Supply and demand of childcare places

Based on national usage rates, the current situation is:

	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	1209	1974	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	1595	2828	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	2100	2828	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	2643	2828	Sufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 55 children <b>into</b> district to access funded places			

Across South Somerset there are a sufficient number of childcare places for 0-4 year olds. For 0-2 year olds and 3-4 year olds in the autumn and spring terms there are at least 10% more places; however, there are fewer than 10% surplus places in the summer term. Overall, more children came into the district to access childcare than left it; this is likely to be from other Somerset districts and from neighbouring authorities.

### Sufficiency in selected towns





#### Chard

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		Fewer than 10% surplus places
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient		





#### Crewkerne

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Insufficient		Supply is 92% of demand (7 places req'd)
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient		Supply is 73% of demand (31 places req'd)





#### Iminster

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient		

#### Wincanton

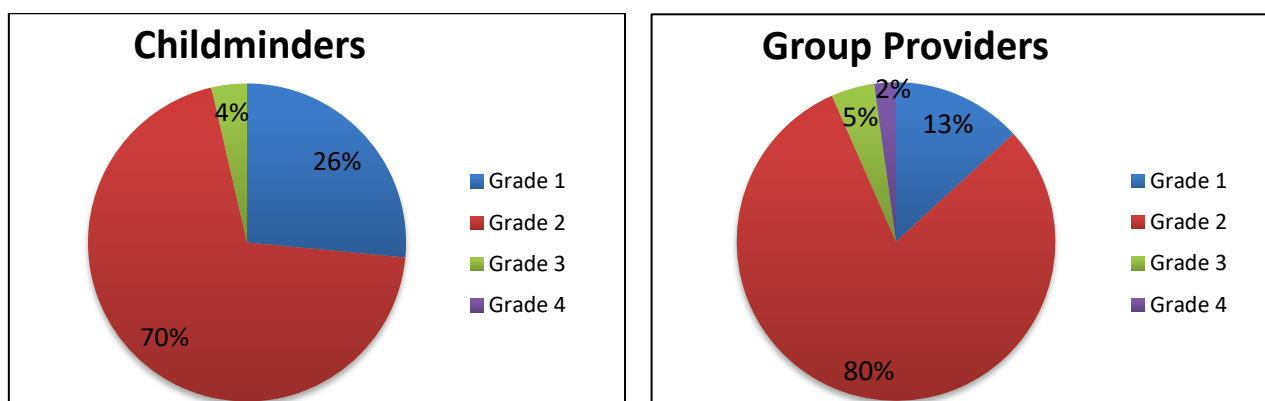
0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient		

## Yeovil

0-2YO places:	Sufficient	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient	 Supply is 99% of demand (5 places req'd)

## Quality of childcare provision

Overall, 95% of graded providers in South Somerset are rated Good or Outstanding (August 2018). 96% of childminders are rated Good or Outstanding, along with 93% of group providers. Two group providers (2%) are currently rated Inadequate.



## New housing

There are a number of new housing developments either approved or pending approval across South Somerset, plus further developments in the pipeline.

Housing Developments	No. of dwellings		Number of EY places required (approved + pipeline)	Total number of EY places required
	Approved / pending	Pipeline		
Chard	791	1025	40 + 51	91
Crewkerne	719	170	36 + 9	45
Ilminster	535	138	27 + 7	34
Wincanton	299	510	15 + 26	41
Yeovil	2599	407	130 + 20	150
Yeovil urban extension	1212	1310	61 + 66	127
Rural South Somerset*	1877	470	94 + 24	118
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8032</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>403 + 203</b>	<b>606</b>

\*Castle Cary, Huish Episcopi, Somerton, Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, South Petherton and Ilchester

The number of houses planned for Crewkerne and Yeovil in particular will put pressure on the settings here, where there are already insufficiencies.

## Summary

Overall, South Somerset has a sufficient number of childcare places for all ages, although there are fewer than 10% surplus places for 3-4 year olds in the summer term. However,

the data suggests that Chard is short of places for 0-2 year olds, and Crewkerne and Yeovil may be short of places for 3-4 year olds in the terms when demand is at its highest. The setting in Broadway was expanded to meet the expected increase in demand for places with the introduction of the extended entitlement. If all the proposed and pipeline housing is built, additional early years places – particularly in Crewkerne and Yeovil and for 3-4 year olds – are likely to be required.

Most of the main towns in South Somerset are well served with a number of group childcare settings, and there are group childcare settings in many of the rural communities as well. However, parents living in some eastern parts of the district in particular will have to travel to access childcare and the choice of setting may be more limited and not necessarily meet the needs of working parents.

## Taunton Deane

### Introduction and population

Taunton Deane comprises 67 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which ten are in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. Nine of these deprived areas are in Taunton, including the second, third and eighth most deprived LSOAs in the county. The other deprived area is in Wellington.

The Early Years aged population of Taunton Deane is 6283, up 281 from 6002 in 2017.

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	1171	1217	1317	1306	1272	6283

### Supply and demand of childcare places

Based on national usage rates, the current situation is:


	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	918	1568	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	1182	1908	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	1542	1908	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	1915	1908	Insufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 183 children <b>into</b> district to access funded places			


Across Taunton Deane there are a sufficient number of childcare places for 0-4 year olds. For 0-2 year olds and 3-4 year olds in the autumn and spring terms there are at least 10% more places; however, there is a small shortfall in places in the summer term.

Overall, more children came into the district to access childcare than left it; this is likely to be from other Somerset districts and from neighbouring authorities. This is despite the shortfall in places available in the summer term.

### Sufficiency in selected towns

#### Taunton

0-2YO places: Sufficient 

3&4YO (autumn): Sufficient 

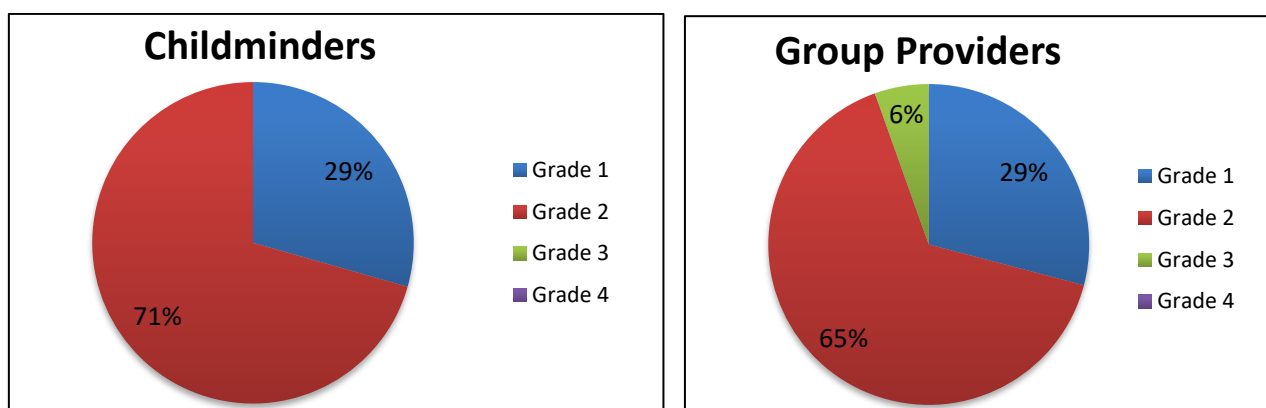
3&4YO (spring): Sufficient ■  
 3&4YO (summer): Insufficient ■ Supply is 91% of demand (110 places req'd)

### Wellington

0-2YO places: Sufficient ■  
 3&4YO (autumn): Sufficient ■  
 3&4YO (spring): Sufficient ■ Fewer than 10% surplus places  
 3&4YO (summer): Insufficient ■ Supply is 85% of demand (38 places req'd)

## Quality of childcare provision

Overall, 97% of graded providers in Taunton Deane are rated Good or Outstanding (August 2018). All the childminders are rated Good or Outstanding, along with 94% of group providers.



## New housing

There are a number of new housing developments either approved or pending approval across Taunton Deane, plus further developments in the pipeline. Taunton in particular is a key site for meeting the Government's target for building new homes.

Housing Developments	No. of dwellings		Number of EY places required (approved + pipeline)	Total number of EY places required
	Approved / pending	Pipeline		
Taunton	6698	3934	335 + 197	532
Wellington	1621	335	81 + 17	98
Rural Taunton Deane*	747	230	37 + 12	49
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>9066</b>	<b>4499</b>	<b>453 + 226</b>	<b>679</b>

\*Including Wiveliscombe

The number of houses planned for Taunton in particular will put pressure on the settings here, where there are already insufficiencies. Wellington also currently has an insufficient number of places.

## Summary

Overall, Taunton Deane has a sufficient number of childcare places for all ages, apart from in the summer term when data suggests there is a small shortfall of places for 3-4 year olds. Four group childcare settings in Taunton Deane were expanded to meet the expected increase in demand for places with the introduction of the extended entitlement: one in

Taunton, one in Norton Fitzwarren, one in Wellington and one in Wiveliscombe. Current data suggests that there is still a small shortfall in 3-4 year old places in Taunton and Wellington in the summer term.

If all the proposed and pipeline housing is built, additional early years places are likely to be required. Some of the demand is likely to be met by nurseries included with new primary schools in these developments.

The pattern of settings across Taunton Deane is similar to that in the other districts. There is a concentration of settings in Taunton and Wellington, with others in the smaller rural communities. There are fewer settings in the south of the district, although parents may access childcare in South Somerset or in neighbouring authorities. Here, as in many rural areas, the choice of childcare will be limited, and parents may have to travel to access it.

## West Somerset

### Introduction and population

West Somerset comprises 21 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which four are in the 30% most deprived areas in the country. Three of these deprived areas cover Watchet with the fourth in Minehead.

The Early Years aged population of West Somerset is 1278, down 65 from 1343 in 2017.

Age	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Population	219	250	261	250	298	1278

### Supply and demand of childcare places





Based on national usage rates, the current situation is:

	Places required	Places available	Sufficiency	Category
0-2YO	189	288	Sufficient	
3-4YO (autumn)	231	461	Sufficient	
3-4YO (spring)	316	461	Sufficient	
3-4YO (summer)	405	461	Sufficient	
Funded places	Net movement of 16 children <b>out of</b> district to access funded places			

Across West Somerset there are a sufficient number of childcare places for 0-4 year olds, with at least 10% more places than are estimated to be required. Overall, more children left the district to access childcare than came into it; this is likely to be to other Somerset districts and from neighbouring authorities, particularly Devon.

### Sufficiency in selected towns

#### Minehead

0-2YO places:	Sufficient	
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient	
3&4YO (summer):	Sufficient	

## Watchet

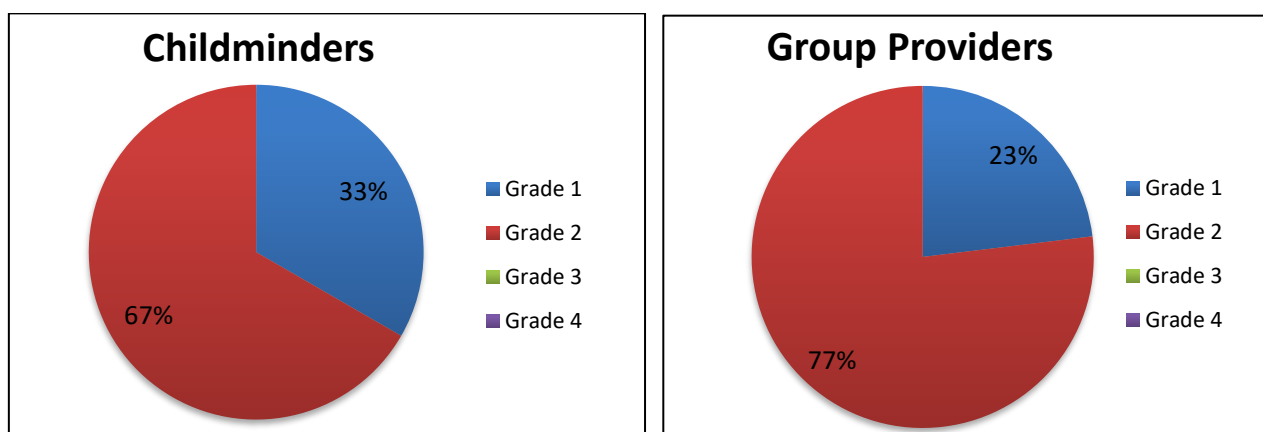
0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		Fewer than 10% surplus places
3&4YO (spring):	Insufficient		Supply is 78% of demand (10 places req'd)
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient		Supply is 62% of demand (22 places req'd)

## Williton

0-2YO places:	Sufficient		
3&4YO (autumn):	Sufficient		
3&4YO (spring):	Sufficient		Fewer than 10% surplus places
3&4YO (summer):	Insufficient		Supply is 80% of demand (9 places req'd)

## Quality of childcare provision

Overall, 100% of graded providers in West Somerset are rated Good or Outstanding (August 2018).



## New housing

There are a number of new housing developments either approved or pending approval across West Somerset, plus further developments in the pipeline.

Housing Developments	No. of dwellings		Number of EY places required (approved + pipeline)	Total number of EY places required
	Approved / pending	Pipeline		
Minehead	267	781	13 + 39	52
Watchet	458	705	23 + 35	58
Williton	107	1103	5 + 55	60
Rural West Somerset	100	661	5 + 33	38
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>46 + 162</b>	<b>208</b>

The number of houses planned for Watchet and Williton in particular will put pressure on the settings here, where there are already insufficiencies. Wellington also currently has an insufficient number of places.

## **Summary**

Overall, West Somerset has a sufficient number of childcare places, with at least 10% surplus places for all ages. However, the overall picture masks a difference between the more urban and rural areas in this district. There is a shortfall of places in Watchet and Williton which will be countered by surplus places in the rural settings. Here, the issue is that of a steadily decreasing early years aged population which may affect the viability of some settings. Childminders may be able to offer more flexibility than group settings.

Another challenge in West Somerset is the sparsity of its population. This means that some parents will have to travel a considerable distance to access childcare. Many rural settings will be sessional and unable to meet the needs of working parents.

If all the proposed and pipeline housing is built, additional early years places are likely to be required, particularly in Watchet and Williton.

## Part 4: Childcare provision for specific groups

### Children entitled to Early Years Entitlement (EYE) funding

#### EYE for two year olds

The most deprived 2 year olds are currently eligible for 15 hours a week of funded childcare for 38 weeks a year (or 570 hours stretched across the year). The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produces a list of potentially eligible children several times a year. In Somerset, outreach work to promote the entitlement with parents of 2 year olds is carried out by getset area teams supported by health visitors.

Over the last year many people claiming benefits have been moved to the new Universal Credit system. This has resulted in the DWP lists of eligible children being incomplete and inaccurate. New data on the take-up rate of the entitlement in 2 year olds is therefore currently unavailable.

The number of 2 year olds funded for a childcare place in the spring term 2018 can be compared with the total number of 2 year olds.

Proportion of funded two year olds 2018 (source: SCC 2018)

District	Number of 2YOs Jan 2018	Number of funded 2YOs spring 2018	Proportion of funded 2YOs	Average number of hours used
Mendip	1219	243	20%	124.6
Sedgemoor	1354	374	28%	126.6
South Somerset	1669	378	23%	124.7
Taunton Deane	1317	312	24%	127.4
West Somerset	261	65	25%	121.2
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>5820</b>	<b>1372</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>125.7</b>

The overall proportion of funded two year olds in 2018 is down slightly on previous years when it was around 26-27%. The difference in the proportion of funded two year olds between districts could be related to employment and earnings and therefore the proportion of children eligible for funded childcare.

#### EYE for three and four year olds

The majority of three and four year olds in Somerset take up a funded place with a group provider or childminder for at least some of their entitlement hours. For all 3 year olds there was a 98.5% take-up of a funded place in the spring term 2018. The figure for 4 year olds is lower as a proportion of them will start school.

In the spring term 2018, approximately 93% of children eligible for the extended entitlement took up a funded place with a provider for more than 15 hours. The extended entitlement for eligible children began in September 2017 so has been running for one academic year. It was introduced to help parents begin or get back to work or increase their hours if they were in work. Data on whether the entitlement has helped parents to do this is not yet available. It also remains to be seen whether the provision of 30H places has reduced the number of two year old places available.



## Childcare required by working parents

Parents working full time will often require childcare all day and all year. Although many group childcare providers and childminders provide full time care, many are run by or based at schools and are open school hours and term time only. These settings are unlikely to meet some parents' childcare needs although childminders and out-of-school and holiday clubs may be available to cover some of the evening and holiday care required.

Around 56% of group childcare providers are open term time only with 34% open for at least 50 weeks a year. In places where a term-time-only setting is the only one, some parents' childcare needs will not be met.

Only 36% of group providers are open for 50 hours or more per week. A 50 hour week equates to five ten-hour days, typically 8am – 6pm. Around 32% of group providers are open between 30 and 40 hours per week, equating to five six-to-eight hour days. Around 16% of group providers are open fewer than 30 hours per week.

## Children requiring holiday and wrap-around care

### Out-of-school and holiday clubs

There are 92 known out-of-school and holiday clubs in Somerset (August 2018), down from 106 in 2017.

Sufficiency of places for children requiring holiday & wrap-around care (source: SCC 2018)

District	No. of out-of-school / holiday clubs 2017	Ratio of clubs to EY population 2017	Early Years population 2018	No. of out-of-school / holiday clubs 2018	Ratio of clubs to EY population 2018
Mendip	14	1: 410	5583	13	1:429
Sedgemoor	26	1: 253	6408	23	1:279
South Somerset	21	1: 413	8387	17	1:493
Taunton Deane	37	1: 162	6283	31	1:203
West Somerset	8	1: 168	1278	8	1:160
<b>Total/average</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1:270</b>	<b>27939</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1:304</b>

All the districts except West Somerset has seen a reduction in the number of out of school and holiday clubs since last year. However, there are also many clubs that are not registered with the LA. A survey of school websites found that there are 130 breakfast clubs, 105 after-school clubs and 18 holiday clubs across the maintained and independent schools in Somerset. Although these will be available to four year olds in the schools, they are unlikely to be available to children aged under four.

With the introduction of the Extended (30 Hours) Entitlement, providers of all types were encouraged to work together so that the childcare needs of working parents could be met. For example, childminders could be used in the early morning and evening, dropping off children at their pre-school or nursery and picking them up afterwards. Childminders were also allowed to operate for some of the time at premises other than their home, for example at schools or in community premises.

## Providers operating outside standard hours

Some providers are open outside standard opening hours, which will help parents requiring childcare at unusual times. For the purposes of this report, outside standard hours means opening before 8am in the morning or after 6pm in the evening, and providing care at weekends or overnight.

Number and proportion of providers open outside standard hours (source: SCC 2018)

Out-of-hours care	Childminders		Group childcare	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Providers open before 8am	145 (60%)	139 (48%)	58 (18%)	61 (19%)
Providers open after 6pm	41 (17%)	33 (11%)	5 (2%)	4 (1%)
Providers open at weekends	5 (2%)	5 (2%)	0	1 (0.3%)
Providers offering overnight care	25 (10%)	19 (7%)	0	0

There are fewer providers offering out-of-hours care this year, although the number of group childcare providers open before 8am increased slightly. However, in the majority of cases this is for just an extra half an hour i.e. starting at 7.30 am. The group provider now open at weekends is a workplace nursery and so only for use by the employees there.

## Brokerage

SCC publishes information about providers (who have given permission for their information to be shared) on the Somerset Choices website, and parents can search for childcare using their postcode to identify their nearest providers. For those parents unable to find childcare that suits their needs, the LA provides a brokerage service. This service is currently administered by the SSE Early Years Improvement Team.

Between April and August 2018, 56 requests for brokerage were received.

Number of brokerage requests received by district April – August 2018 (source: SSE 2018)

District	No. of brokerage requests	Min age Months	Max age Years	Number of requests by type (requests can be for more than one type)		
				Childminder	Nursery	Hol / OoS*
Mendip	8	10 m	9 y	6	4	2
Sedgemoor	15	7 m	13 y	7	8	6
South Somerset	20	4 m	9 y	14	11	7
Taunton Deane	13	9 m	8 y	10	6	6
West Somerset	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

\*Holiday and out-of-school clubs / care

The LA received brokerage requests for a wide age range of children, from 4 months to 13 years old. Many requests were for either a childminder or a nursery / pre-school, whichever was available at the times required. A significant number of requests were for holiday or out-of-school care, including a number for the 'gap' between school ending and parents finishing work.

## **Part 5: Commissioning activities**

The Early Years Commissioning Team has organised or commissioned various campaigns over the last year, to address issues such as the falling number of childminders and to increase parental awareness of their childcare entitlements.

### **Raising the profile of Early Years as a career**

The EY Commissioning Team, along with the SSE Early Years Improvement Team, attended – or are attending – several careers fairs this year. The Team organised an Early Years careers fair for secondary school aged pupils at Bridgwater and Taunton College (Taunton campus), attended careers fairs in Ilminster and Taunton and will be attending one in Yeovil in the autumn term.

The Team is now part of the Somerset Education Business Partnership and shares adverts for Early Years apprenticeships.

### **Childminder recruitment campaign**

The EY Commissioning Team commissioned the EY Improvement Team to plan and implement a childminder recruitment campaign. In addition to attending the events mentioned above, the Improvement Team have:

- Promoted childminding at the National Play Day event in Burnham-on Sea and in various libraries across the county;
- Held information events for people considering becoming a childminder in Dulverton, Bridgwater and Taunton;
- Used social media to promote childminding as a career and the events listed above;
- Funded start-up training for childminders in the western half of the county;
- Posted articles on childminding on village and town online noticeboards and placed articles in parish newsletters;
- Provided business support sessions for new and potential childminders;
- Provided telephone and email support to potential childminders and home visits to childminding applicants.

This term, the Improvement Team will be carrying out a survey of the Early Years sector regarding the recruitment and retention of staff.

The LA also offers a 'golden hello' payment of £250 to new childminders to help with their setting up costs. This is in addition to the £500 grant that new childminders receive from the government.

### **Parent engagement campaign**

The LA bid for and was awarded almost £70,000 from the DfE's Delivery Support Fund (DSF) to support the LA and providers to deliver a sufficient number of places for the extended entitlement in the summer term 2018. Part of this funding was allocated to raising awareness of the extended entitlement with parents.

The Team attended events across the county to engage with parents, including Sedgemoor Play Day in Highbridge and the Mid-Somerset Show in Shepton Mallet, and had publicity stands at Blenheim Gardens in Minehead, Kilve Court and the Orchard Shopping Centre in Taunton.

New promotional material was created including postcard sized leaflets with the application dates for 30H funding, trifold leaflets explaining the various childcare funding offers available and posters encouraging parents to apply for a funded place. These were distributed across the county in libraries, GP surgeries and large employers amongst others. The national and county Childcare Choices websites were promoted via social media.

### **Capital investment programme**

This year, the Early Years Commissioning Team again submitted capital investment bids to Cabinet to create new Early Years places in the county. The Local Authority invested £1.6m in Early Years places in 2017-18 and £1.4m in 2018-19.

So far in 2018, the Local Authority has secured contributions from developers towards the provision of Early Years places totalling almost £222,000.

The Early Years Team also secured capital funding for six projects from the DfE to support sufficiency of places for the 30 hours extended entitlement totalling over £1,000,000.

In 2017 and 2018, the following capital projects were completed by the Local Authority, to meet the expected demand:

- Expansion of Paddocks nursery in Wiveliscombe
- Expansion of Rockets at Rockwell Green in Wellington
- New nursery at Neroche Primary School
- New nursery as part of the new Northgate Primary School, Bridgwater
- New nursery as part of the new Primrose Lane Primary School, Yeovil
- New nursery as part of the new Kingfisher Primary School, Yeovil
- Expansion of Octopus nursery at Burnham-on-Sea
- Expansion of Little Vikings nursery at Knights Templar First School, Watchet
- Expansion of the nursery at Hayesdown First School, Frome
- Expansion of the nursery space at Wellington Children's Centre
- Expansion of the nursery at Ruishton Primary School, Taunton

# **Appendix 1: Early Years and childcare definitions**

## **Childminders**

Childminders are self-employed childcare professionals. They provide play, care and learning for children in their own home. Many can take children to and from school, pre-schools and drop-in group activities. Childminders must be registered by Ofsted if they look after children up to eight years old for more than two hours a day, in their own home for pay or reward.

## **Childcare on Domestic Premises**

Childcare on Domestic Premises is the term for four or more childminders working together to care for children on domestic premises.

## **Day Nurseries**

Day nurseries provide play, care and learning for children aged up to five. Typically they open from 8am to 6pm, but some are open longer hours to suit working parents, and offer a choice of full or part-time places. Day nurseries are registered with Ofsted and operate all year round, usually with the exception of bank holidays.

## **Pre-schools / Playgroups**

Pre-schools provide play, care and learning normally for children aged between two and five years old and they usually open term times. The majority offer sessions in the mornings and / or afternoons. Some offer a lunch club to allow children to stay all day.

## **Wrap-around care**

Childcare at the before or after the school day and during school holidays. This can be delivered by a range of different providers, including breakfast and after-school clubs and holiday sports or play schemes. They could be linked to a child's school or based in the community.

# Appendix 2: Calculating the demand and supply of childcare places in Somerset

## Introduction

Under the Childcare Act 2006, Local Authorities in England have a duty to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents. It states that LAs 'must secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare ... is sufficient to meet the requirement of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them (a) to take up, or remain in, work, or (b) to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work'.

The Act also requires Local Authorities to 'ensure early years provision of a prescribed description is available free of charge to each young child that is eligible'. Currently, all children aged 3 and 4, and the most disadvantaged 2 year olds, are eligible for 570 hours of funded childcare per year. The Childcare Act 2016 extended this entitlement to include an additional 570 hours of funded childcare per year for 3 and 4 year olds in working families. LAs have a duty to secure funded childcare places for qualifying children.

In order to assist with these duties, and for the strategic planning of places, Somerset County Council estimates the demand for childcare places for 0-4 year olds across the county and in local areas. The estimates use data published by the Department of Education on the take-up rates of various types of childcare in England. The demand is compared with the availability of places in the same area.

## Sufficiency = Availability of places – Estimated demand

### Calculating the demand for places

The estimated demand is that for the proportion of 0-2 and 3-4 year olds who use childcare and is expressed in 30 hour full time equivalent (FTE) places<sup>1</sup>.

$$\text{Number of places required} = \left[ \frac{\text{population using childcare}^2 \times \text{average number of hours used per week by age of child}^3}{30} \right]$$

<sup>1</sup>A working week is calculated as five six-hour days giving a total of 30 hours per week.

<sup>2</sup>0-2 year olds: the number of 0, 1 and 2 year olds multiplied by the use of childcare by this age group (43%)<sup>4</sup>.

3-4 year olds: autumn term = all 3 year olds; spring term = all 3 year olds + 1/3 of 4 year olds; summer term = all 3 year olds + 2/3 of 4 year olds.

Population of 3-4 year olds eligible for the extended entitlement: autumn term = 65.5%<sup>5</sup> of all 3 year olds; spring term = 65.5% of (all 3 year olds + 1/3 of 4 year olds); summer term = 65.5% of (all 3 year olds + 2/3 of 4 year olds).

<sup>3</sup>DfE Childcare & Early Years Survey of Parents 2017 Table 1.5 Hours of childcare used per week, by age of child (0-2 year olds = 16 hours; 3-4 year olds = 17.5 hours): <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017>

The hours used by 3-4 year old children eligible for the extended entitlement is the difference between the maximum hours (30) and the average hours currently used (17.5), i.e.  $30 - 17.5 = 12.5$ .

<sup>4</sup>DfE Childcare & Early Years Survey of Parents 2017 Table 1.3 Use of childcare providers, by age of child: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2017>

<sup>5</sup>OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS (2017) Annual Population Survey Household Data Sets Table C1 LA: Children by combined economic activity status of household members January-December 2016: Percentage of children living in working households in Somerset (65.5%):

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/childrenbythecombedeconomicactivitystatusofhouseholdmembersbylocalauthoritytablec1a>

## **Assumptions / basis for calculations**

### **Population using childcare**

The population of 0-1YOs using childcare is taken to be the total population of 0- and 1-year olds multiplied by 0.43 (the proportion of this population who use childcare).

The population of 2YOs using childcare is taken to be the total population of 2-year olds multiplied by 0.43 (the proportion of this population who use childcare).

The population of 3-4YOs using childcare in the autumn term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds (all 4-year olds will be in school).

The population of 3-4YOs using childcare in the spring term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds plus one third of the population of 4-year olds (the remaining 4-year olds will be in school).

The population of 3-4YOs using childcare in the summer term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds plus two thirds of the population of 4-year olds (the remaining 4-year olds will be in school).

The population of 3-4YOs using extended childcare in the autumn term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds multiplied by 0.655 (the proportion eligible for this entitlement).

The population of 3-4YOs using extended childcare in the spring term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds plus one third of the population of 4-year olds multiplied by 0.655 (the proportion eligible for this entitlement).

The population of 3-4YOs using extended childcare in the summer term is taken to be the total population of 3-year olds plus two thirds of the population of 4-year olds multiplied by 0.655 (the proportion eligible for this entitlement).

Hours of childcare used per week: 0-2 year olds = 16 hours; 3-4 year olds = 17.5 hours.

The hours used by 3-4 year old children eligible for the extended entitlement is the difference between the maximum hours (30) and the average hours currently used (17.5) = 12.5 hours.

## Calculating the availability of places (supply)

The supply of places is those available for 0-4 year olds and is expressed in 30 hour full time equivalent (FTE) places.

$$\text{Number of places available} = \left[ \frac{\text{hours open per week}^1}{30^2} \right] \times \text{capacity by age of child}^1$$

<sup>1</sup>From information provided annually by childcare providers via Database Update Forms.

<sup>2</sup>The number of hours open per week is divided by 30 to standardise the hours to full time equivalent places (one full time equivalent place is 30 hours per week).

### Assumptions / basis for calculations

A working week is calculated as five six-hour days giving a total of 30 hours per week.