



CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE

Report by Nicola Sawyer, Early Years Sufficiency and Entitlements Manager

Contents

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	2
What is Early Years and Childcare?	2
Childcare Sufficiency Duty	2
Assessment Methodology	2
Childcare Reforms	3
KEY HEADLINES	5
CURRENT EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE MARKET IN YORK	6
SUPPLY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE	6
DEMAND FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE AND PROVIDER SUSTAINABILITY	11
KEY ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR	17
SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS	20
ACTION PLAN 2024	22
ANNEX 1 ADDITIONAL DATA	25
ii) Places available per sector type	28
iii) Places available for each ward for 0 – under 5-year-olds	29
iv) Places available for each ward for 5+ year olds	30
ANNEX 2	31
City of York SEND Sufficiency Assessment for Wraparound Care for Children with Complex Needs	31

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This annual report updates elected members on how City of York Council is meeting its statutory duty to secure sufficient early years and childcare provision for children aged 0-14 (and up to 18 for disabled children).

What is Early Years and Childcare?

Childcare is defined in Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 as any form of care for a child and includes education for a child and any other supervised activity. In York we refer to Early Years and Childcare as the full range of provision on offer for 0–14-year-olds (up to 18 years old for children with Special Educational Needs or a disability) across our Private, Voluntary, Independent and Maintained Sectors.

Childcare Sufficiency Duty

The Childcare Act 2006, Section 6, Duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents, requires local authorities to ensure there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of parents who require childcare in order for them to take up or remain in work or to undertake education or training to obtain work.

Local authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents. Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. The local authority role is one of market facilitation and to:

- Ensure that the childcare is available, accessible and affordable so that parents have the opportunity to use childcare in their area.
- Ensure it is of good quality so that it benefits the child.
- Provide parents with a choice of childcare so they can choose the childcare that meets their needs.

Assessment Methodology

This annual sufficiency report is informed by the following:

- local parent/carers survey, available via an online survey monkey and in paper format (undertaken July/August 2023)
- local provider survey and Out of School Club Survey undertaken in September /October 2023

- SEND Childcare Sufficiency Analysis for wraparound care (Annex 2)
- local intelligence including from the Quality Improvement Advisers who support early years providers.
- York Family Information Service which supports families in finding early years and childcare and offer a brokerage service.
- sufficiency data submitted by early years providers.
- regular dialogue with providers at information and networking events including the Leaders and Mangers forum.
- local datasets including birth data.
- planned housing developments across the city.

Childcare Reforms

In the Spring 2023 Budget, the Government announced a package of increased childcare support. This includes:

- Working parents will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year, from when their child is 9 months old to when they start school. This will be rolled out in stages, starting in April 2024.
- An uplift to the hourly rate paid to providers to deliver the existing funded entitlement offers from September 2023. In York, this was an increase from £5.77 to £7.65 per child per hour for 2-year-olds and an increase from £4.53 to £4.85 per child per hour for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- A change to staff: child ratios for 2-year-olds, moving from 1:4 to 1:5 from September 2023.
- Start-up grants for new childminders, including for those who choose to register with a childminder agency. Childminders who register with Ofsted will receive a start-up grant of £600, whereas those who register with a childminder agency will receive £1,200.
- The government will give local authorities in England £289 million over two academic years, starting in September 2024, to set up wraparound childcare provision in schools.

- Paying parents on Universal Credit childcare support up-front when they are moving into work or increasing their hours, rather than in arrears meaning low-income families will find it easier to afford and it will help remove a barrier that many face when thinking about going back to work.
- Increasing Universal Credit childcare costs: We will increase the Universal Credit childcare cap to £951 for one child (up from £646) and £1,630 for two children (up from £1,108).

These policies will provide local authorities, and early years and childcare providers both opportunities and challenges, as this is a market, which is currently facing many challenges relating to shifting patterns of supply and demand, resulting in financial sustainability concerns for many childcare providers across the range of sectors.

KEY HEADLINES

- There are 248 providers offering 5221 places across the city, which is a slight reduction on last year where we had 256 providers offering 5237 places.
- Good and Outstanding Ofsted Inspections have increased from 96.6% to 97% so York now sits slightly above the National average of 96%.
- Take up of two-year-old early education places has increased slightly from 92% to 94% (National average 74%).
- Number of eligible two-year-olds remains fairly consistent and is 319 compared to 328 for the same term last year.
- There continues to be pressure points in some parts of the city, exacerbated by the current recruitment and retention issues faced by the sector.
- 13 providers closed their provision during the 12-month period 1st Sept 22 to 31st August 23 (1 playgroup and 12 childminders) resulting in a reduction in supply of places.
- 4 providers have opened new provision during 12-month period from 1st Sept 22 to 31st August 23 (1 out of school club and 3 childminders).
- 20 brokerages were supported by York's Family Information Service.
- There is an ongoing challenge to provide early years and out of school care for children with complex needs.
- Whilst the majority of settings feel that they will remain financially sustainable for another year or longer, one childminder has stated they would only remain viable for a few more months and a quarter of settings are unsure as to future viability.

- Locally and nationally, recruitment and retention of the workforce remains one of the biggest challenges, alongside low numbers, lack of demand for paid for childcare for some providers, low levels of funding (entitlement) and low morale.
- Historical underfunding and lack of financial support means the market remains fragile especially for recruitment and retention of staff.
- As of June 2023, there were 2570 families with an open and used Tax Free Childcare account, compare with 2005 in 21/22 and 1500 in 20/21.

CURRENT EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE MARKET IN YORK

SUPPLY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

Providers submit termly occupancy data which is used to determine average occupancy for each provider and total number of places offered for each age range at ward level. The data below is based on summer 2023 data for most providers although summer term data was not available for 8 Childminders and 29 Out of School clubs therefore data from a previous term was used for these settings. Please see Annex 1 for a breakdown of places per sector type and for each ward based on data submitted by providers in summer 2023.

2022/2023

	Number of providers	Number of places
Childminder	96	547
Day Nursery	39	2114
Pre-School	26	563
Maintained	7	208
Academy Nursery	16	471
Independent	4	146
Out of School	60	1172
Total	248	5221

2021/2022

	Number of providers	Number of providers
Childminder	105	105
Day Nursery	39	39
Pre-School	27	27
Maintained	7	7
Academy Nursery	16	16
Independent	4	4
Out of School	59	59
Total	256	256

2020/2021

	Number of providers	Number of providers
Childminder	119	119
Day Nursery	40	40
Pre-School	30	30
Maintained	6	6
Academy Nursery	16	16
Independent	4	4
Out of School	58	58
Total	273	273

2019/2020

	Number of providers	Number of providers
Childminder	123	682
Day Nursery	40	2120
Pre-School	30	652
Maintained	6	177

	Number of providers	Number of providers
Academy Nursery	16	456
Independent	4	140
Out of School	58	1130
Total	277	5362

Early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children

The government funded early education places help ensure that children can access a safe and good quality early years setting for at least 15 hours each week and provides further opportunity to identify speech and language delay very early on, hence supporting improved outcomes and the priority for a best start in life. Take up of funded places for three- and four-year-olds remains very high across the city, although it is not possible to provide an actual percentage take up figure due to migration and children accessing funded places in settings in other bordering local authorities.

Take up of funded two-year-old places has increased slightly over the last year from 92% to 94% during the summer 2023 term, which remains well above the national average of 74%.

Quality

Ofsted inspections are taking place regularly and within timescale parameters, 21 inspections were carried out in York during the academic year 2022-23. The percentage of providers in York graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent Ofsted inspection has increased slightly from 96.6% in 2022 to 97% in 2023, this is now just above national average of 96%.

The ongoing recruitment and retention crisis does not yet seem to be impacting directly on the quality of settings Ofsted inspection gradings. However, the continued shortage of qualified staff will have connotations for future Ofsted inspection gradings, in regard to providers being fully staffed, trained, knowledgeable and competent to deliver the EYFS and fully engage in the Department for Education Covid recovery programmes. This, alongside the Early Years and Childcare reforms and subsequent changes to funding entitlements as well as changes to the EYFS adds pressure to a sector

already facing serious challenges in several areas including staffing and higher numbers of children accessing provision with additional and complex needs.

The sector remains in a precarious position in regard to maintaining and improving quality and the knock-on effect of settings judged less than good by Ofsted on sufficiency of places and longer-term sustainability. The focus of support and challenge continues to be concentrated on supporting vulnerable children and those requiring additional interventions as well as prioritising transitions. The emphasis is to ensure high quality early education places across the market for all vulnerable young children, prioritising communication, language, and literacy through the Early Talk for York approach as well as on children's emotional health and wellbeing. Safeguarding remains a focused priority with higher numbers of allegations against members of staff being raised since 2021.

Supporting children with SEND

There are two key early years funding streams aimed at supporting access to the early years entitlements for children with additional needs and disabilities; the Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) and the Disability Access Fund (DAF).

Early Years Inclusion fund (EYIF)

EYIF is awarded to children aged 2 - 5-year-olds attending a PVI setting who have a My Support Plan or equivalent and who do not have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The children are usually in receipt of early education funding with emerging needs (although there have been a very small number of exceptions for children with especially high needs, which present as complex needs alongside a significant health condition).

In York, allocation of funding is made by a panel, on an application basis with amounts awarded based on hours needed as set out in a sessional plan completed by the SENCo. It is paid through an hourly rate of £8:50 per hour and the maximum contribution is 75% of funded entitlement which equates to 22.5 hours a week (a maximum total of £1,045 per term) for a child entitled to 30 hours.

Disability Access Fund

Providers can receive £881 per year for 3- or 4-year-old children who receive Disability Living Allowance and are accessing a place at their setting. In York, 48 children accessed the Disability Access Fund over the 12-month period from Sept 2022 to August 2023 with a total of £38,960 paid to the provision where the children attended.

Supporting wraparound care for children with high level needs (See Annex 2 for report)

Data from the provider survey suggests that approximately 5% of children attending a day nursery, pre-school playgroup, childminder or school nursery in the 0 – 5 age range have special educational needs.

Out of School (OOS) providers identified 107 children with SEND taking up a place at their provision. This figure does not include the cohort at specialist providers which is 128; it should be noted that the specialist providers offer holiday provision, one session, one day per week after school and a Saturday scheme, so these two figures are not cumulative, some children with SEND could be accessing both mainstream and specialist provision. The average number of children with SEND attending Out of School provision per club is 4.

There is evidence of some unmet need for children with complex needs, most notably for wraparound care for pupils attending Hob Moor Oaks. Given our data sources and increasing numbers of children with SEND, this gap is likely to continue to grow, with more families being unable to take up a place at their preferred childcare provider to enable them to access work or training. However, there are some gaps in our analysis and work is underway to further interrogate this information to develop a clear picture of unmet need, understand what the barriers are for these families to access childcare provision and forecast potential future demand.

Providers can apply to the learning support hub for targeted intervention which will involve specialist teachers or practitioners from the outreach team to work directly in settings over a prescribed period of time by offering a scaffolded approach to build skills and capacity into the sector to support children with additional needs. Alongside this, there is a universal training offer and a bespoke training offer which can be applied for to meet the unique specific requirements of a cohort or an individual child where the universal training offer does not meet the child or young person's specific needs. York is working with Best Practice who are delivering the Level 3 SENCo qualification and have increased the number of SENCo networks to an additional network each term.

Early Talk for York project continues to be extremely successful and trains staff in primary schools and early years settings so they can spot any issues with speech, communication, and language early, and work with the child and their family or carers, and other professionals, if necessary, to address them. There are now 34 group-based schools and settings following the full Early Talk for York approach, serving approximately 1700 children aged 2 – 5 years and many also serve more children aged 0 – 2 years. 108 (93%) schools and group-based settings in York are now using the screening tool (WellComm) to universally screen children (the first step of Early Talk for York) with many childminders also doing the same via a library lending service.

DEMAND FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE AND PROVIDER SUSTAINABILITY

Parent Survey Summary

443 (89%) of respondents indicated that they currently use childcare. Of these, 64.5% could access all of the childcare and / or funded entitlement they needed, 3.5% stating that this was because a suitable place was not available and 10% stating that this was due to unaffordability. 15 of the respondents (just over 3%) had one or more children with SEND and of the families who indicated that they would not access a suitable place, just under 4% of families (19 families) indicated that this was for a child with special educational / additional needs.

There is some unmet need across the city albeit in relatively small numbers, and this does vary regarding provision type, age etc for different wards. The main area of unmet need appears to be for full or part time provision for the under 5s in Acomb, Bishopthorpe and Heworth & Heworth without, wraparound care in Dringhouses & Woodthorpe and Rural West, holiday provision in Bishopthorpe and Rural West and flexible provision in the Rural West ward.

As was the case last year, some of this unmet need continues to be due to the current recruitment and retention issues experienced by early years and childcare providers hence providers are having to limit the number of places on offer due to lack of staffing.

Several families of children with SEND or additional needs indicated that they could not find suitable childcare, and this could also be linked with the recruitment and retention issues as providers are not able to offer the 1:1 care required to support the child.

Many families stated that the cost of childcare is an issue and a large number of additional comments made were also in relation to the affordability of childcare and this is a national issue. Whilst the majority of families indicated that they were aware of Tax-Free Childcare, work is currently ongoing with partners to promote Tax Free Childcare across the city, both with families and early years providers, to maximise take up and support families with these costs.

There is a degree of awareness regarding the childcare reforms planned to be introduced in phased approach from April 2024 however work on a local communications strategy for the reforms is currently being developed and will be commence during the spring 2024 term.

Only a small percentage of families with children with SEND or additional needs were aware that they could access support with their Disability Living Allowance application or that if their child accesses an early education place the setting could receive Disability Access Funding therefore further promotion of these two areas is required.

Brokerage Support

In addition to the local online childcare search facility ([Synergy - Enquiry \(york.gov.uk\)](https://york.gov.uk/synergy-enquiry)), York's Family Information Service continues to offer a free information service for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-19 (or up to 25 for disabled children) alongside a brokerage service to support families in finding suitable childcare to meet their needs. They also support families needing help in completing the online form application for the funded two-year-old places. Over the last year, the FIS service supported 20 brokerages, for a range of reasons including the child having additional needs, a place not being available at the preferred provider, short notice or emergency provision being required, the parent/carer requiring a complicated childcare arrangement and 5 were for a two-year-old funded place.

Child Population and New Homes

The birth rate has continued to decline over the last year and hence the total number of 0- to 5-year-olds in the city has reduced by just over 7% from 7137 to 6624. Forecasts suggest that the birth rate will continue to decline next year, albeit at a slower rate of 3%.

There is a large amount of housing development included in the local plan which, if agreed, will significantly increase demand for early years and childcare places across many areas of the city, however this will be over a period of years. Where data suggests that existing provision will not support the forecasted increase in demand from a housing

development, a contribution for capital funding for the creation of additional early years and childcare places will be sought from the developer as part of the overall request to support the education infrastructure. Current contribution requests assume a mix of 20-30% affordable housing within a development however if developments move toward 100% affordable housing this has implications both in terms of higher pupil yields arising from the developments and build viability where infrastructure contributions are sought which does present a risk to the local authorities ability to secure sufficient additional places to meet demand. Funding to support the creation or expansion of early years provision has been received for several developments which have recently completed or are underway. Further work is now needed to progress the procurement process and secure these additional places.

Economy

In 2022, there were 68,350¹ (62%) full-time employees and 41,525 (38%) employees in York, which indicates more people working part time than the regional (33%) and national (31%) figures.

In 2022, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers in York was £609.20, compared to £594.20 in Y&H and £642.20 for Great Britain² and the median hourly pay for part-time employees in York was £11.08, compared to £10.83 in Y&H and £11.20 for Great Britain.

In August³ 2023, there were 10,325 households in York receiving Universal Credit out of a total of 85,458 households (12%), with 4951 (5.8% households with 1 or more children).

Provider Survey

Historically York has undertaken an annual provider survey which has included all provider types (day nurseries, pre-schools, out of school clubs and childminders). Following the Spring budget announcement and the potential for investment into the wraparound childcare provision in schools, a decision was made to undertake a separate survey for out of school clubs to enable the local authority to begin to understand supply and demand in more detail and the associated implications of the new wraparound reforms.

¹ Business Register and Employment Survey (2022)

² Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – Resident analysis (2022)

³ Please note this is a provisional figure.

Day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, childminders, and school nurseries

The survey was undertaken in September 2023. 87 responses were received, which represents a 47% response rate. Of these, one response was for a setting which is both a playgroup and out of school club, and another was for a setting which is both a day nursery and out of school club.

Settings were asked how they thought their business or setting would perform this coming year and there was a very mixed response with 9% expecting to run at a loss, 36% expecting to break even, 29% expecting to generate a surplus and 26% were unsure.

Regarding confidence in remaining financially sustainable in the future, the majority of settings (76%) felt they would remain financially sustainable for another year or longer however three childminders felt they would only be sustainable for a few more months and 21% were unsure which reflects the ongoing uncertainties being experienced by this sector. In February 2022, 40% of settings indicated they had recently experienced difficulties in recruiting staff, and this remains a significant challenge for the sector, at both a local and national level resulting in a third of local providers having to limit places offered due to staffing issues, with a fifth of settings using agency staffing on a regular basis. These pressures are resulting in some unmet demand across the city for all age ranges 0-5 years old and over half of providers are now making additional charges for food and consumables taken as part of the funded entitlement.

The ongoing workforce recruitment and retention difficulties coupled with continued increases in delivery costs, including energy, salary costs and supply costs, an insufficient early education funding rate, business rates and inflation does mean that many providers across all sectors continue to face significant financial challenges.

Looking at demand, over half of providers (60%) indicated they could offer enough places to meet demand. This figure has increased slightly since last years survey where 52% of providers were able to deliver enough places to meet demand. The response varied depending on sector type with 60% of day nurseries and most play groups and schools able to meet demand however only 43% childminders stated they had enough places. Where there was unmet demand, this was generally for the younger age ranges: under 2s, 2 – under 3s and 3 – under 5s however there was all a small amount of unmet demand for places for older children. Waiting lists are generally for children under 5 with the largest

waiting lists for the under 2s. Whilst this may include some families who have babies/toddlers who are not yet ready or old enough to access a place, it does suggest a possible shortage of baby places across the city.

Looking forward to the expansion of the funded entitlements being introduced from April 2024, 80% of providers are not considering changing their current offer of provision by either expanding number of places or age ranges offered. Providers calculated that between 70% and 80% of existing children attending their setting aged between 9 months and 2 years old would be eligible for the new working entitlements being introduced as part of the childcare reforms. Settings continue to face similar challenges to those experienced over the last few years, predominantly recruitment and retention, low reserves and low staff morale, low funding rate and lack of demand for paid for childcare. 21% of providers did cite low occupancy as a challenge and this may be due to the models of delivery offered not meeting parental need in that local area. The expansion of the entitlements may present an opportunity for those settings who are currently experiencing low occupancy levels.

Out of School Clubs (OOSCs)

The survey received 37 responses from a cohort of 60 providers from the sector, which represents a 62% return rate. 46% of school run OOSCs and 35% of charitable OOSCs responded to the survey.

67% of providers were confident that their business would generate a surplus or breakeven over the coming year, with 20% concerned that they would make a loss. One provider highlighted that they didn't feel that their business was going to be sustainable and may cease trading in the next few months. This organisation is part of a large day nursery and out of school provision is a small, but valuable element of their offer. Since the completion of the survey, they have begun to work in partnership with another provider who is oversubscribed and are collecting a small group of children and transporting them back to their setting, which has helped to improve the sustainability of their provision.

The recruitment and retention of staff across the sector remains a pressure with 61% of providers highlighted that staffing pressures had forced them to limit places in the past year however there is some flexibility for OOSCs with the removal of qualification requirements. York has continued to advocate for staff in OOSCs to hold qualifications and the survey reflects this commitment from the sector, with 57% of staff in clubs holding a level 2⁴ or higher qualification, with

⁴ Level2 or common core skills qualification requirements apply to out of school clubs registered on the Voluntary childcare register. [Daycare providers on the voluntary Childcare Register: Ofsted requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

an additional 8% of staff working towards a qualification. Another influencing factor is that the working hours are often part time and at unsocial hours, so interest in these posts may be drawing from a smaller pool of potential applicants. 35% of staff in the sector are unqualified and whilst this survey does not examine the reasons for this, one contributing factor is likely to be the lack of national funding for play work specific qualifications and the exclusion of play work qualifications as DfE approved qualifications for providers on the early years register.

When considering demand for places, just over a quarter of providers stated that they were unable to meet demand for places and the pressure on places tends to be felt more in after school provision, rather than breakfast and holiday provision. For over half of providers, lack of space impacted on their ability to offer additional places. The highest demand for places is in the 5 years – 8 years age group and those clubs that have a waiting list, have on average 15 children waiting to take up a place. On average clubs stated that they had 89 children on roll, with the highest number in the 5 years -7 years 11 months age group.

The national wraparound childcare programme is part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget. The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.

To support this ambition, the government announced that it will provide up to £289 million of start-up funding over two academic years to support local authorities and providers in England to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day, which parents of primary school-aged children will be able to pay to access.

This programme will only focus on primary school-aged children from reception to year 6, Monday to Friday during term time. Our expectation is that all wraparound provision is 8am-6pm, enabling parents to work a full day with travel time, unless data shows that local demand is for different hours, for example reflecting local labour market patterns.

We posed a question to providers to try and understand what their initial response has been to these reforms and 30% of providers indicated that they may consider expanding their current offer. Those providers who indicated they were considering expansion highlighted that their ability to recruit staff and suitable premises were the largest barriers that could impact on this.

Market capacity for childcare reforms

As a result of this survey the findings will be used to support the implementation of the National Wraparound Childcare Programme in York. Data captured enables us to understand some of the supply and demand information for the city, although this is not exhaustive and childcare can be a fluid, unpredictable market. Since the survey the DfE have confirmed that revenue and capital funding is to be provided to LAs so some of this funding will enable us to increase staffing capacity to gather more detailed evidence which can then accurately target funding where there is the greatest need.

The recently published Wraparound Childcare Programme Handbook further details the expectations placed on LAs by the DfE, and we will be required to carry out more detailed analysis of the market to understand where gaps are present, the level of current and predicted demand, waiting list pressures and the areas of the city where supply needs to be increased using creative market solutions.

The introduction of the reforms requires local authorities to develop a local funding formula to incorporate the new funded entitlements for the 2s and under 2s and this must be undertaken in consultation with all early years providers in York ready for the first phase of the reforms being introduced from 1st April 2024. For the first time, there will be two separate two-year-old entitlements, one for working parents and one for disadvantaged families and the local authority must determine whether to have the same funding formula for both entitlements or two separate formula. This will be undertaken in consultation with early years providers however, a key priority is to develop a formula which supports the continued high take up of funded places for disadvantaged families.

There are several nursery chains in York, including multi-academy trusts, national nursery chains and local providers and whilst this does give the opportunity for greater investment and expansion bringing more capacity and choice to the market it does also present a risk to the statutory childcare sufficiency duty if a chain were to experience issues that impact on its sustainability and resulted in sudden closure.

KEY ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR

The early years and childcare sector is identified as a key sector in the local authorities Inclusive Growth Strategy and work continues with the Economic Growth and Skills teams to identify opportunities to support the labour market and

promoting the early years as a viable career path. Work has included promotion of vacancy and apprenticeship opportunities within the sector, key recruitment events and other opportunities such as secondary school careers events, work experience and apprenticeship taster days and promotion of the Levy Transfer Scheme which can be used to pay for the training and assessment of new apprenticeships. Alongside the covid recovery package for early years settings, the Department for Education has recently launched a digital and social media campaign promoting Early Years Educator apprenticeships to raise awareness and highlight the benefits of the Level 3 apprenticeship route and this has been promoted locally.

As part of the Skills Bootcamp Programme, Multiply Maths YouTube video workshops have been developed to address missing skills sets which could support the current recruitment issues in the sector. These incorporate functional skills Maths into real-life scenarios in childcare settings and offer practical problem solving and to date include workshops on Space and Occupancy and Ratios with further workshops planned. A Management Skills Programme aimed primarily at new and aspiring managers and team leaders has also been developed and is being offered to Early Years settings at a significantly reduced cost. Modules include Communication skills, Managing change in uncertain environment, Learning and development in the workforce, Finance and budgeting and workload and stress management.

To help address unmet demand for children with SEND, a project is underway with Hempsalls consultancy which focuses on wraparound care for children with complex needs. This includes the development of a strategic vision, systematic review of data to provide a robust overview of the current market and development of a viable business model which will inform a SEND sufficiency strategy and assist in commissioning wrap around care for sustainable, affordable out of school provision for children with complex needs.

To support families with the cost of childcare, work is ongoing to promote Tax-Free Childcare (TFC). Posters publicising TFC and the funded entitlements are being displayed in GP surgeries, Libraries, Children's Centre's, West Offices/Hazel Court (including on the portal and Viv up platforms), universities, across various community venues/cafes and shared with The Healthy Child Service, York Learning, Citizen's Advice, The Welfare Benefits Team, and Family Navigator's at their community drop-ins also. We are now working to get the poster displayed in Pharmacies, Food Banks, supermarkets and distributed via the Local Area Co-ordinators and Information about support with childcare costs is being included in the Talk Money campaign and on the Live Well York website.

In conjunction with school place planning, York's Supplementary Planning Guidance has been updated in line with recently updated national DfE guidance to refine local policy on potential yields from housing developments in York and the associated requests for section 106 / Capital Infrastructure Levy with a focus now on considering the implications of developments with 100% affordable housing. Work continues with colleagues in planning and with housing developers to progress plans for the creation of new places where analysis has identified need arising from local developments. Having successfully secured funding to support the development of 16 new early years places arising from the Lowfield Green development in the Acomb area of the city, the procurement of these places is currently in progress.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

The early years and childcare market continues to face a number of national and local challenges which are affecting the supply of good quality places. Several providers have closed over the last 12 months which has resulted in slight reduction in the number of places offered across the city. In addition, many providers continue to limit the number of places offered due to the recruitment issues and resulting shortage of staff therefore there are small areas of unmet demand across the city including for some children with SEND. Operational costs continue to rise and the increase to the national minimum wage announced in the autumn statement in conjunction with an early education funding rate, which most providers have indicated does not cover costs, a resulting in a market that remains very fluid and volatile.

A high turnover of staff and the loss of significant knowledge and experience within the early years sector does have a knock-on impact for the local authority due to the ongoing support and training of new staff members to ensure they have the required knowledge and skills to deliver funded places in accordance with the DfE statutory guidance and be adept with the funding portal used to administer the early years entitlement funding. As owners and managers continue to leave the sector, and key long-term relationships are lost, this could impact on the ability of the local authority to engage with providers particularly with some of the more complex and challenging but essential pieces of work such as development of local funding formulae and provision of places for children with additional, often complex needs.

Alongside the impact of the pandemic and the current economic climate, several other areas of uncertainty pose a challenge to sufficiency in the coming year and beyond. The key challenge, which may also present opportunity, being the childcare reforms being introduced in a phased approach from April 2024 which presents a range of unknowns, both in terms of the impact on change in demand from families and on provision being offered. Detailed data analysis will need to be undertaken in the coming months, building on current intelligence and information gained from the most recent provider and parent surveys to fully understand what these changes may mean for Yorks early years and childcare market and what additional capacity needs to be created. Key priorities will then need to be identified and developed in order to facilitate the market and support the development of new places to meet identified additional demand.

The childcare reforms will have an impact on providers in terms of business finance as a larger proportion of their income will likely come from local authority funding for the delivery of early education places rather than from fee paying parents which may have implications regarding provider cash flow. In addition, the expansion of the entitlements will result in a

large increase in the volume of funding payments to be processed by the local authority therefore a full review of the current funding process will need to be undertaken prior to the introduction of the reforms. The level of funding available to providers to deliver the funded entitlements is likely to be a factor in a providers willingness and ability to deliver funded places across the required age ranges.

The draft local plan incorporates a large number of housing developments across the city which will also likely have a significant impact on the childcare market in future years. York's Supplementary Planning Guidance includes requests to secure capital funding (Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) from new housing developments to support the development and expansion of both early years alongside school places school place planning. In addition to funding already secured and received, the local authority will continue to request Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding or Section 106 funding contributions for future housing developments where it can be evidenced that there is likely to be insufficient early years and childcare provision in the local area to support an increase demand arising from the development. The local authorities internal guidance will need to be reviewed to reflect a move to an increase in affordable housing and the associated impact this will have on both pupil yields and viability of funding contributions to support required education infrastructure,

The provision of appropriate early years and childcare to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and, or disability remains a priority for children in York. Work on developing a local funding formula for the under 3s entitlement will need to ensure that children with additional needs are supported by the Early Years Inclusion Fund. Work will also continue with Hemsalls Consultancy to develop and cost a sustainable business model to be used to procure a provider to deliver wraparound provision for children with complex needs.

The local early years and childcare sector is working to help address the current retention and recruitment challenge in a number of ways including offering more flexible hours and/or increasing benefits for employees without paying additional costs, combining age groups for better efficiencies, sharing of staff across sites where appropriate, increased use of Job Centre Plus and recruitment events to attract potential employees and increasing the number of apprenticeships where possible. Several changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework come into effect from 4th January 2024 to support this work including the removal of the requirement for Level 3 educators to hold a Level 2 (GCSE or equivalent) maths qualification (but will now be applied to certain setting managers) and allowing students on long-term placements

and apprentices to be counted within staff:child ratios at the level below their level of study if their manager is satisfied that they are competent and responsible. The DfE intends to introduce a new experience-based route for educators to gain approved status to work within staff:child ratios. This new route would be available to educators holding a qualification identified as meeting most of the relevant Level 3 Early Years Educator criteria. Candidates would meet missing criteria by working in their setting whilst under the supervision of a senior member of staff. Once approved, these educators would be eligible to count within the Level 3 staff:child ratios, though they would not gain a formal qualification.

In relation to Tax Free Childcare, the next stage of this work is further engagement with all early years providers to establish which providers are not currently a registered provider of TFC and encourage them to sign up, encourage ongoing promotion of the TFC with their parents /carers and try to identify barriers which may be preventing parents/carers from accessing Tax Free Childcare.

In addition to the detailed data analysis to be undertaken, an ongoing overview of the early years and childcare market will continue to be informed by local intelligence from colleagues in the quality improvement team, services directly supporting families and networking events with our local early years and childcare providers. The regular networking events, which include informal briefings and information sessions ensure that providers have the most up to date information on the childcare reforms, training, learning from recent Ofsted inspections and other relevant topics. These sessions continue to provide a valuable opportunity for the local authority to gain an up-to-date perspective on the current situation with the childcare market in York, which is extremely dynamic.

ACTION PLAN 2024

Key issue	Action	Timescale
Childcare reforms / take up of early education entitlements	Consult with the local early years sector to develop a local funding formula for the new funded entitlements for 2-year-olds and under 2s.	January 2024
	Secure additional capacity in order to undertake in depth data analysis required to assess potential increase in demand for new entitlement places for 2s and determine how many additional places need to be created.	During Spring 2024 term

Key issue	Action	Timescale
	Where data identifies that additional places are required work, develop key priorities to facilitate the market and work with providers to investigate options for developing new places e.g., through expansion or reorganisation of existing provision, or possibly development of new provision. Work alongside colleagues in planning, premises, and quality improvement to support the creation of new high-quality provision to support demand arising from the childcare reforms.	Summer 2024 term and beyond
	Undertake a review of the current IT systems and funding processes and policies, in collaboration with early years providers to ensure that they support exiting local authority capacity and provider sustainability in the delivery and administration of early years funded places.	To complete by end August 2024
	Continue to promote the take up of early education and childcare places for three- and four-year-olds and for disadvantaged 2-year-olds. Work with colleagues and providers to ensure that the most vulnerable families are not displaced by the expansion of the entitlements but can continue to access inclusive provision, including baby places and funded two-year-old places.	Ongoing
SEND	Progress work with support partner Hemsalls which focuses on wraparound care for children with complex needs with a view to developing a viable business model which will assist in commissioning wrap around care for sustainable, affordable out of school provision for children with complex needs.	To complete by end August 2024.
	Continue to work with colleagues in other teams including the Families Information Service, to identify further areas of unmet need in the city and potential solutions for the development of new provision and/or expansion of existing provision to address accessibility.	Ongoing
Housing developments & capital funding	Continue to secure section 106 / Capital Infrastructure Levy funding and procure the expansion and development of new early years and childcare places to meet additional demand arising from new housing developments.	Ongoing

Key issue	Action	Timescale
	Consider local policy on potential yields from affordable housing developments in York and potential approaches for securing sufficient places where contributions from 100% affordable housing developments are not viable.	Spring term
Recruitment and retention	Continue to work with colleague at DWP and in Economic Growth team, Skills team, and York Learning to promote early years careers, apprenticeships and routes into early years management and promote the early years as a viable career path.	Ongoing
	Maintain ongoing dialogue with the Department for Education to highlight the current crisis.	Ongoing
	Roll out further cohorts of the Management Skills Programme and develop and promote further Multiply Maths workshops as part of the Skills Bootcamp Programme to further enhance skills and knowledge of existing early years workforce.	Spring and Summer 2024
Overall sufficiency of places	Continue to monitor and risk assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term impacts of the pandemic and current economic climate alongside capability and capacity of sector for growth • school lease arrangements with early years and childcare providers • the growth of local and national chains 	Ongoing
Affordability	Continue with the work promoting funded early education places and Tax-Free Childcare to families across the city via a variety of methods including work to distribute further posters in Pharmacies, Food Banks, supermarkets and distributed via the Local Area Co-ordinators.	Ongoing
	Further engagement with all early years providers to establish which providers are not currently a registered provider of TFC and encourage them to sign up, encourage ongoing promotion of the TFC with their parents /carers and try to identify barriers which may be preventing parents/carers from accessing Tax Free Childcare.	Spring 2024 and beyond.

ANNEX 1 ADDITIONAL DATA

i) Population forecast for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds by ward area.

2022/2023

	0-2s	2-3s	3-4s	total
Acomb Ward	137	70	135	342
Bishopthorpe Ward	31	17	29	77
Clifton Ward	151	75	165	391
Copmanthorpe Ward	35	19	34	88
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	184	96	180	460
Fishergate Ward	106	56	89	251
Fulford & Heslington Ward	59	32	46	137
Guildhall Ward	174	100	139	413
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	135	77	108	320
Heworth Ward	245	133	221	599
Heworth Without Ward	47	25	44	116
Holgate Ward	241	133	210	584
Hull Road Ward	120	69	96	285
Huntington & New Earswick Ward	138	65	159	362
Micklegate Ward	184	96	169	449
Osbaldwick & Derwent Ward	100	56	72	228
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward	254	141	225	620
Rural West Ward	111	63	92	266
Strensall Ward	119	67	95	281
Westfield Ward	316	173	263	752
Wheldrake Ward	48	24	45	117

2023/2024

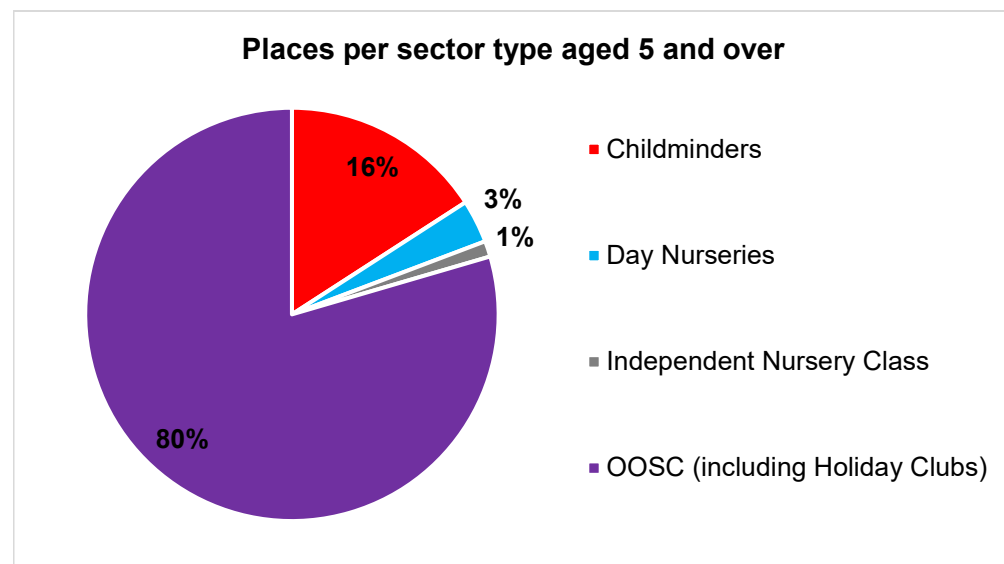
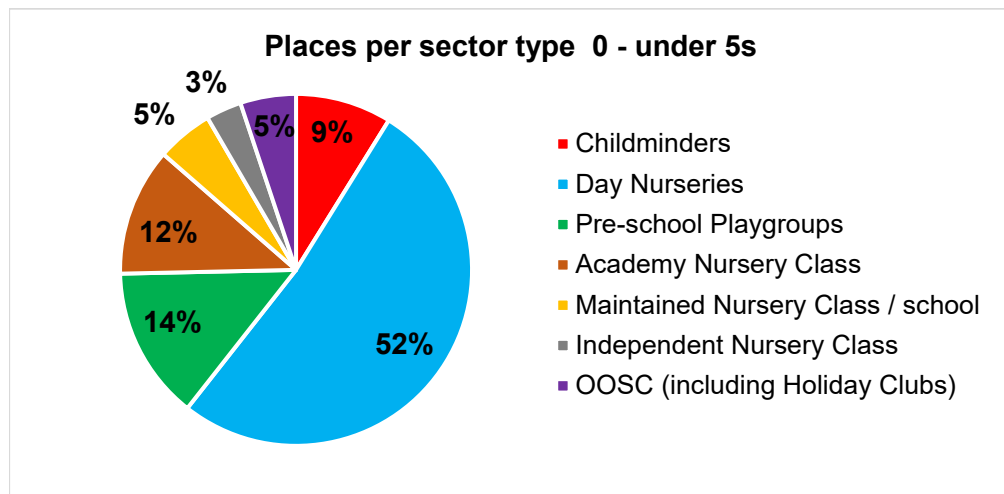
	0-2s	2-3s	3-4s	total
Acomb Ward	135	67	132	334
Bishopthorpe Ward	29	14	26	69
Clifton Ward	153	76	160	389
Copmanthorpe Ward	31	16	28	75
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	175	88	165	428
Fishergate Ward	99	50	101	250
Fulford & Heslington Ward	54	27	55	135
Guildhall Ward	147	74	123	344
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	117	58	97	272
Heworth Ward	225	112	203	540
Heworth Without Ward	44	22	43	108
Holgate Ward	216	108	218	542
Hull Road Ward	102	51	95	248
Huntington & New Earswick Ward	146	73	140	359
Micklegate Ward	176	88	173	437
Osballdwick & Derwent Ward	88	44	90	222
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward	227	113	204	544
Rural West Ward	97	48	87	232
Strensall Ward	104	52	97	253
Westfield Ward	286	143	293	721
Wheldrake Ward	48	24	49	121

2024/2025

	0-2s	2-3s	3-4s	total
Acomb Ward	135	67	108	310
Bishopthorpe Ward	29	14	26	69
Clifton Ward	153	76	123	353
Copmanthorpe Ward	31	16	29	77
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	176	88	151	414
Fishergate Ward	99	50	83	232
Fulford & Heslington Ward	54	27	46	127
Guildhall Ward	147	74	141	362
Haxby & Wigginton Ward	117	59	108	284
Heworth Ward	225	112	198	535
Heworth Without Ward	44	22	39	104
Holgate Ward	217	108	200	524
Hull Road Ward	102	51	99	253
Huntington & New Earswick Ward	146	73	106	326
Micklegate Ward	176	88	143	407
Osballdwick & Derwent Ward	88	44	80	211
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without Ward	227	113	209	550
Rural West Ward	97	48	90	235
Strensall Ward	104	52	96	253
Westfield Ward	286	143	258	688
Wheldrake Ward	48	24	38	110

i) Places available per sector type

During the summer term 2023, there was a total of 4005 places available for the 0 – under 5 age range, and a total of 1216 places available for children 5 years and above, broken down into the following sector types:



ii) Places available for each ward for 0 – under 5-year-olds

Number of places offered for age range 0 - under 5-year-olds

Ward	0 – under 5 Population (22/23)	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre- School Playgroup	Maintained Nursery Class	Academy Nursery Class	Independent Nursery Class	Maintained Nursery School	Out of School Club	Total Places	% Places per 100 Children
Acomb	342	34	0	24	39	0	0	0	0	97	28.4
Bishopthorpe	77	2	57	24	0	0	0	0	10	93	120.8
Clifton	391	13	70	0	39	29	44	0	0	195	49.7
Copmanthorpe	88	18	29	24	15	0	0	0	0	86	97.7
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	460	20	129	21	0	44	0	0	13	227	49.3
Fishergate	251	0	116	39	12	52	35	0	7	261	104.0
Fulford & Heslington	137	9	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	59	43.1
Guildhall	413	0	228	24	0	34	0	0	4	290	70.2
Haxby & Wiggington	320	22	122	66	0	0	0	0	12	222	69.4
Heworth & Heworth Without	715	23	118	17	0	59	0	0	4	221	30.8
Holgate	584	29	26	52	0	26	0	59	30	222	37.9
Hull Road	285	10	94	14	0	0	0	0	0	118	41.4
Huntington & New Earswick	362	42	90	53	20	37	0	0	0	242	66.9
Micklegate	449	9	37	0	0	39	16	0	6	107	23.8
Osballdwick & Derwent	228	3	232	28	0	33	0	0	27	323	141.8
Rawcliffe & Clifton	620	36	240	16	0	26	36	0	54	408	65.7
Rural West	266	16	230	14	0	36	0	0	28	324	121.9
Strensall	281	30	88	48	0	36	0	0	0	202	71.9
Westfield	752	38	111	24	24	21	0	0	0	218	28.9
Wheldrake	117	0	56	25	0	0	0	0	10	91	78.0
Total	7138	354	2073	563	149	471	131	59	205	4005	
									Average		67.1

iii) Places available for each ward for 5+ year olds

Number of places offered for over 5-year-olds

Ward	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-School Playgroup	Maintained Nursery Class	Academy Nursery Class	Independent Nursery Class	Maintained Nursery School	Out of School Club	Total Places
Acomb	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Bishopthorpe	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	36
Clifton	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	78
Copmanthorpe	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	28
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	97
Fishergate	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	48	63
Fulford & Heslington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
Guildhall	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	10	19
Haxby & Wiggington	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	110
Heworth & Heworth Without	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	50
Holgate	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	113
Hull Road	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	43
Huntington & New Earswick	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	49
Micklelegate	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	44
Osballdwick & Derwent	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	12	19
Rawcliffe & Clifton	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	82
Rural West	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	133
Strensall	19	21	0	0	0	0	0	80	120
Westfield	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	49
Wheldrake	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	40	46
Total	193	41	0	0	0	15	0	967	1216

ANNEX 2

City of York SEND Sufficiency Assessment for Wraparound Care for Children with Complex Needs Summary September 2023

Childcare Sufficiency

The Childcare Act 2006, Section 6 places a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient childcare (up to age 14, and 18 for disabled children) for working parents and requires local authorities to ensure there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of parents who require childcare in order for them to take up or remain in work, or to undertake education or training to obtain work.

This summary document describes York's SEND sufficiency assessment for wrap around care (before and after school provision) for primary aged children and identifies a gap in our statutory sufficiency duty in meeting increasing demand for wraparound childcare places for children and young people with complex needs, in the primary age group.

CYC defines complex needs as:

Complex needs: including more complex learning, developmental, sensory, physical and/or medical needs; likely to require a high level of special educational provision not normally available in mainstream settings; may be identified at a very early age through universal health assessments (e.g., new-born hearing screening).

Children with Education, Health and Care plans

The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is: **957**, which has been in an upwards trajectory since 2020, particularly in relation to children under the age of 5, which has seen the largest increase.

Sources of Evidence

The evidence gathered to inform this gap includes:

- Responses to the Early Years and Childcare annual parent survey in which 6 families indicate they are unable to access wraparound provision for their child with SEND.
- Responses to the Out of School Provider survey indicate that while there are SEND children accessing provision, there is a pressure about the number of places that can be offered, due to complexity of need and staff

recruitment and retention pressures. There are on average, 4 children with SEND attending each club in the city.

- No. of FIS brokerages, where brokerages are closed these are not always able to be resolved to fully meet the needs of the family, which may impact on parents/carers ability to access specialist providers.
- Waiting lists at specialist providers mean that families are not able to access provision, regularly and consistently enough to support them to work. Spaces are often allocated by providers to try and fairly accommodate more children, which can mean that working parents/carers will not be able to access provision consistently enough to enable them to work.
- Sudden closure of a SEND after school provider in November 2022, resulting in the loss of after school provision 4 days per week during term time for children with complex needs.
- Closure of school run after school provision by Hob Moor Oaks Primary Academy due to sustainability issues, the school offers access to a number of enrichment clubs, however these may not meet the needs of working parents/carers.
- Local intelligence gathered via Quality Improvement visits and feedback from provider sessions/network, for example, providers are telling us they are at capacity with their offer for SEND, this means that children with more complex needs are often not able to be accommodated in as timely way as the parent/carer requests.
- Number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) is increasing in the city.
- Number of Early Years children supported to access a setting with Early Years Inclusion Fund is increasing, which may have an impact on wraparound provision as these children transition into primary school.

Identifying the target group

In order to undertake a project to begin to address the SEND sufficiency gap, we need to identify our cohort of children with complex needs.

To identify the target group for this project we have agreed that the data sets we will refer to will be:

- Current number of children on roll at Hob Moor Oaks Primary Academy
- Number of children who were unable to access a place at Hob Moor Oaks, due to oversubscription.
- Number of children aged 2, 3 or 4 years who are receiving the Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) for the autumn term– our current data tells us that for high levels of children who receive EYIF, a request for statutory assessment is made and an EHCP is put in place.

Current Market

There are 60 Ofsted registered out of school clubs operating across the city, offering a mix of breakfast, after school and holiday provision. Out of school provision in York strives to be inclusive and clubs make reasonable adjustments to include children with SEND into their provision, as required by the Equality Act 2010. The latest LA Provider survey shows that approximately 107 Children with SEND are on roll in mainstream wraparound provision in the city and approximately 5% of children attending a day nursery, pre-school playgroup, childminder or school nursery in the 0 – 5 age range have special educational needs. This does not include those on roll with specialist providers and there may be some duplication where families use mainstream and specialist provision.

Several children who attend Hob Moor Oaks Primary, the largest specialist primary provision, will also access provision at the clubs across the city. There is in addition a small number of specialist providers, supporting children with complex needs, providing an adhoc mix of provision both after school and during the holidays, although the traditional offer of an after school club that runs every evening from the end of the school day is not available, which can have an impact on parents/carers and their ability to access or training.

Additionally, there are two Enhanced Resource Provisions (ERP) in the city, and these providers are situated on sites where before and after school provision operates, Haxby Road Primary Academy and St Oswalds Primary School, so families can access an offer of provision if their child is a pupil at either of these schools.

Analysis of Data

The largest cohort of children with complex needs is at Hob Moor Oaks Primary Academy. Hob Moor Oaks pupil numbers show an increase in demand for places, with most notably for the 2023-24 academic year, 20 children unable to access a place.

Risk and Consequences

CYC recognises that there may be gaps in the data but intend to further explore other data sources to inform future planning. Meeting this challenge cannot be done by one specialist provider alone, however the purpose of this initial assessment helps us to identify the potential challenges, barriers and opportunities that may impact upon the ability of the LA to address this issue.

CYC have a contract in place to work with the DfE to work alongside delivery partner, Hemsalls to help us to try address these concerns. The aim of the

contract is to develop a sustainable business model that could be used as an exemplar for the LA to commission a service or for other local authorities to draw on as a case study.

The action plan for this contract attached at appendix A.

The Spring budget highlighted some of the biggest reforms to childcare provision in England, and for the first time in many years, wraparound childcare. Funding will be allocated to LAs for them to address sufficiency issues and drive up demand for childcare provision by increasing availability. There is scope within this funding to begin to address the SEND place pressure felt in York, as the funding removes the financial risk for a provider. Whilst this is generally a positive step, we have to acknowledge that the set up of SEND provision is likely to be more expensive and a challenge to be self-sustaining. The DfE cannot confirm funding for wraparound provision after September 2026, so we need to ensure that we can work towards developing a sustainable business model, so that families will have confidence in the reliability of a provider so they can access work or training.

Summary and Recommendations

In summary, the data we have started to review, is evidence that we have some levels of unmet need for children with complex needs, most notably those pupils who attend Hob Moor Oaks. Given our data sources and our increasing numbers of children with SEND, this gap is likely to continue to grow, with more families being unable to take up a place at their preferred childcare provider to enable them to access work or training.

There are some gaps in our analysis and will continue to work with partners to further interrogate this information and ensure that we have a clear picture of unmet need and action we can take to understand future demand, and the trajectory of this, to enable us to meet our childcare sufficiency duty for children with SEND.

The local authority is not a direct provider of early years and childcare provision, and its role is to facilitate the childcare market. York's Family Information Service provide support to families who are struggling to find suitable provision and offer a brokerage service to help them find childcare to meet their needs. Where data indicates a larger area of unmet need which supports sustainable provision, the local authority works with providers to encourage the expansion and development of new places wherever possible although this can be challenging due to the limited premise availability, staffing shortages and limited funding available to the sector for development of new places.

The purpose of tailoring this report to look specifically at SEND enables us to interrogate data further and look at our largest cohort of children with complex needs to try and understand what the barriers are for these families to access childcare provision. The LA can then look to work in a coproduction way to plan and work up business models that may support and encourage providers of specialist provision to develop sustainable, affordable out of school provision for children with complex needs.

It is the LAs intention to look to the childcare market and take steps to commission a provider to deliver after school provision for children with complex needs, potentially dovetailing this with financial support that may be available through the DfE Wraparound Childcare programme.

Actions (concerns/constraints/issues to be addressed)	Objectives (specific support/action required to address concerns/constraints/issues identified)	Day Number required	Timescale s/ Milestones	Specific outcomes	Discrete Funding Required? (Yes/No)	Date completed
a) Identify relevant SEND data sources including information about supply and demand and scrutinise at ward level.	Advice and guidance to undertake a SEND sufficiency analysis of relevant data, including identifying any gaps, to inform potential demand levels for children with complex needs.	2	Mid-September 2023	The LA has an accurate and robust SEND sufficiency plan for children with complex needs, giving detail of 0-5 and 5+ Planning places and forecasting demand will support strategic place planning for this group of children.	No	09.08.2023
b) Agree a definition of complex needs i.e., is this a national definition, local or a combination?	To establish a clear definition of 'complex need' in order to identify the target group for this project.	0.5	31 October 2023	'Complex need' is clearly defined for the purpose of this project.	No	
c) Co-produce and develop a vision and a proposed delivery model for after school provision for the target group.	To work with the LA to facilitate the engagement of relevant partners in the co-construction of the vision and development of the prescribed delivery model for after school provision.	1	31 October 2023	The LA has a clear vision that supports the commissioning framework. The LA is able to provide clarity to families in relation to	No	

Actions (concerns/constraints/issues to be addressed)	Objectives (specific support/action required to address concerns/constraints/issues identified)	Day Number required	Timescale s/ Milestones	Specific outcomes	Discrete Funding Required? (Yes/No)	Date completed
				<p>the offer for after school provision, to meet the needs of working families.</p> <p>The LA is able to provide clarity for potential providers about the proposed delivery model.</p>		
d) Development of a business model for after school provision.	<p>To support the development of a sustainable business model for after school provision, based on examples from other LAs and local intelligence.</p> <p>To work with the LA to secure relevant financial expertise in order to identify the cost of establishing a sustainable business plan over a 3 year period.</p>	2	31 October 2023	To Identify and develop a fully costed (inc. set up costs) and sustainable model for after school provision for children with complex needs.	No	

Actions (concerns/constraints/issues to be addressed)	Objectives (specific support/action required to address concerns/constraints/issues identified)	Day Number required	Timescale s/ Milestones	Specific outcomes	Discrete Funding Required? (Yes/No)	Date completed
e) Develop commissioning activities to establish provision.	<p>To undertake a critical friend review of the business model, ensuring it includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - options for potential premises and agreement on a preferred option. - a marketing strategy to promote the opportunity. - any regulatory requirements e.g., Ofsted Registration. - financial planning to enable startup and 3 year sustainability. 		TBC pending availability of LA officer – target date 31.10.2023	Provision is established for children with complex needs, giving confidence to families that the provision is sustainable over a longer period.	Yes In relation to set up and sustainability.	