

# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2019

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a statutory document that outlines how Norfolk County Council plans to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).' The compiling and publication of this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment meets Norfolk County Council's statutory duty under sections 6, and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006, and is also in line with local authority statutory guidance.
- 1.2 This report focusses on two key areas of the childcare market in Norfolk:
  - measuring the demand for, and supply of, childcare within the seven districts of Norfolk
  - identifying gaps in the market and planning how to support the market to address any shortfall
- 1.3 To assess the supply and demand, current levels of provision are compared with the predicted demand based on population data, so that any shortfall can be identified. More detailed analysis on key findings, demand and supply of childcare places for two, three and four year olds can be found in the Early Years Area Sufficiency Profiles, available from: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>.
- 1.4 The Childcare Act 2006 gives the local authority a key role in shaping the childcare market. Norfolk County Council is committed to working with providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors (PVI) and the Maintained sector, to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents/carers and supports children's learning.
- 1.5 The Local Authority is required to report annually to elected members and publish information for parents to see how the Authority is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes specific information about:
  - the supply of and demand for early education and childcare
  - affordability, accessibility and quality of early education and childcare provision
  - details of how any gaps in this provision will be addressed.
- 1.6 Whilst Local Authorities are required by law to ensure sufficient early years places, attendance by children from birth to five at any early childhood education and care setting is voluntary. There is no requirement for a child to attend early education provision until the term after a child's fifth birthday. Attendance at any setting before this point is the choice of the parent.
- 1.7 Settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) may be private, voluntary or independent organisations or schools. All provision is funded either by government entitlements or by parents.

1.8 The Childcare Act 2006 also requires the following actions and measures which set out the strategic role local authorities play. The local authority is required by government to support (though not directly provide) the following:

- Early education places for two, three and four year olds including eligibility, flexibility and quality
- Distributing the funding for early education places
- Securing sufficient childcare so far as is practicable in a free market
- Providing information to parents
- Providing information, support and training to early childhood education and care providers.

1.9 Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, and up to 52 weeks of the year, for every eligible child in their area, until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Eligibility will depend on the child's age and whether they meet certain criteria.

**Figure 1. Early education and childcare eligibility**

<b>Funded early education</b>	<b>Scope of offer</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
All 3 and 4 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 570 hours. The 570 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week.	Universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds until they enter Reception class at a state funded school. If parents choose not to take up their child's right to a place in a state-funded school reception class in the September following their child's fourth birthday, they can choose to continue to take up their child's free place at a private, voluntary or independent childcare provider until their child reaches compulsory school age
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds	Up to an additional 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 1140 hours. The 1140 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 22 hours per week.	Extended entitlement - Working lone parent or both parents earning over £120 per week
Eligible 2 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. The 570 hours can be stretched	For parents on either low income or a range of benefits; the child is looked after by the local authority; has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order; is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has a

	over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week.	current statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
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Statutory Guidance for local authorities DfE June 2018

- 1.10 All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of fully funded early education. Since September 2017, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare, or an extra 570 hours of free childcare a year, so 1,140 hours in total. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. This also includes self-employed parents.
- 1.11 Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of fully funded, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional activities. Parents can, therefore, expect to pay for any meals offered by the provider alongside the fully funded entitlement, as well as paying for consumables or additional activities.

## 2. Key findings

Some of the key findings of the Norfolk Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 are summarised below. More detailed analysis on key findings, demand and supply of childcare places for two, three and four year olds can be found in Early Years Area Sufficiency Profiles, available from: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>

### **Norfolk is growing and changing**

- Over the coming ten years, according to baseline forecasting figures from Cambridge Econometrics, using the 2017 East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM), the Norfolk population will increase by 68,600, 17,600 more jobs will be required for the working population and 39,300 more homes will be required <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/EEFM/> The number of early years children however seems to be reducing

### **Across the county there is sufficient 0-5 childcare to meet demand, but this varies by area**

- Numbers of children in any given area will fluctuate from year to year. The most recent information is provided in the Early Years Area Sufficiency profiles and this information will be used to assess current sufficiency, alongside the termly information provided to the Local Authority by existing providers

### **The quality of early education and childcare in Norfolk is high**

- 97.9% of childminders were judged Good or Outstanding at the end of August 2019, with other settings (nurseries and playgroups) achieving 95.5% Good and Outstanding
- The percentage of Norfolk children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is in line with the national average

### **The cost of childcare remains below national averages**

- The average charge made by providers for daycare in Norfolk is £4.23 per hour. The national average according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2019 for children aged three and four is £4.92 <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2019>
- 23% of the Early Education hours claimed for 3 and 4 year olds in Summer 2019 were for the extended entitlement (30 hours). These hours were claimed by 587 providers (88% of those that claimed universal Early Education funding for 3 and 4 year olds)

### **3. Actions taken since the 2018 assessment**

The 2018 Childcare Sufficiency Survey identified a number of key actions for the Local Authority. We have:

#### **3.1 Data/Sufficiency**

- Rolled out the Sufficiency Module, part of the Provider Portal, to ensure timely collection of sufficiency data. This allows more targeted and timely support where sufficiency of places is an issue
- Developed more formal partnership between providers, to allow delivery of childcare places in areas where there is unmet need or providers are unable to meet demand due to restrictions on premises etc.
- Developed more detailed sufficiency reports in response to providers' requests for information. These reports focus on Primary school catchment areas and have supported providers and the Local Authority to decide if additional provision is needed in certain areas
- Awarded 38 individual grants to providers to support delivery of inclusive, high quality places in areas of need. This included 3 start up grants, 10 sustainability grants, 1 childcare development grant and 25 quality and inclusion grants
- Developed the information provided to parents and providers in relation to take up of funded places

#### **3.2 Family Information – Key activities**

- We launched an outreach campaign using social media, three commercials and the Family Information web page to widen access to information about early education and childcare and home learning
- We developed a range of promotional childcare and home learning resources to engage parents, foster carers and families with English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- We organized a 2-day digital information event for early years providers and partner services at the Woodside Hub

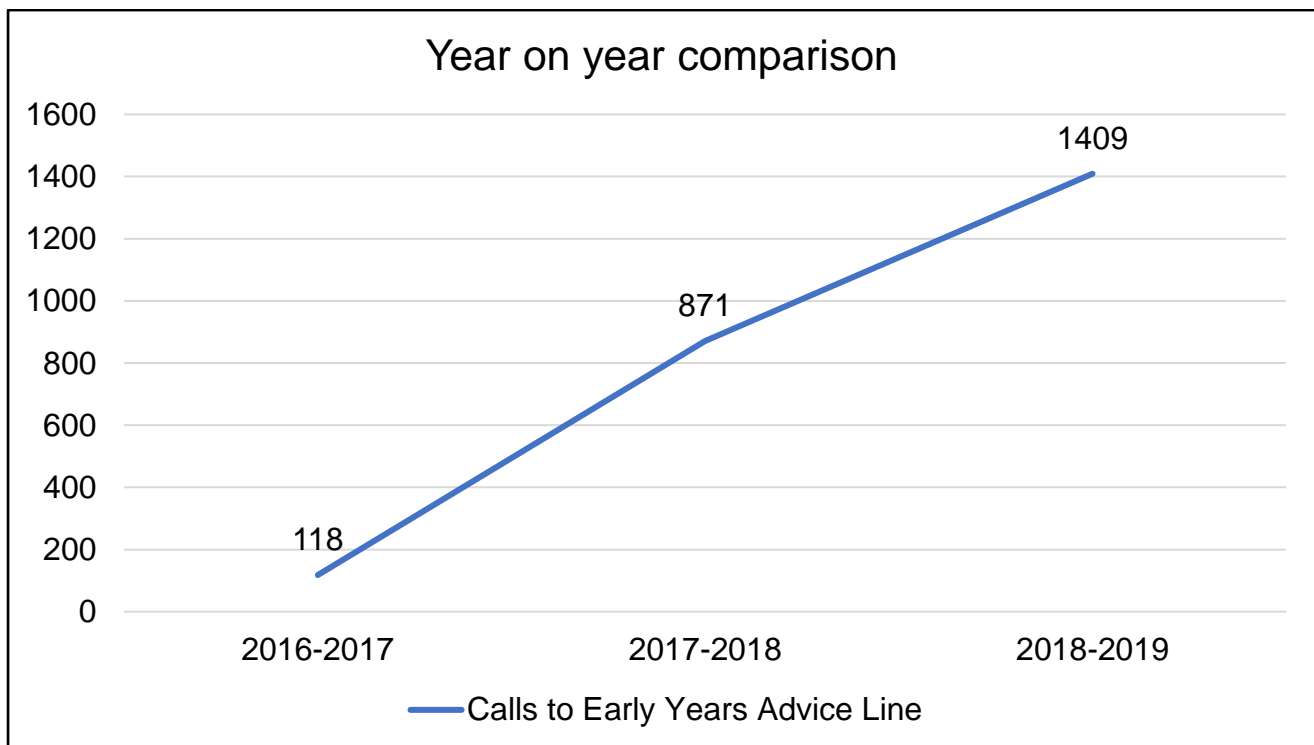
#### **3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN&D)**

- We have improved the quality of existing web-based information and extended the number of topics available for providers to access including Special Educational Needs, behaviour, English as an Additional Language and SEN funding
- More information continues to be added via the Norfolk County Council Schools website
- Links are now in place with health and other colleagues to utilise data from the Early Identification Notice (EIN) to ensure all children identified with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are accessing their early education entitlement
- Skills & knowledge of the Early Years providers has improved to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, especially through the NASEN Level 3 SENCo training

### 3.4 Quality/Workforce Development

- Developed the system leaders peer support network by providing training for system leaders. Over the past year system leaders have provided one to one support, training on specific subjects and have supported at Early Years Assessment Networks and the Early Years conference. They also helped to review and suggest improvements to the updated transition leaflets. Once the new cohort have finished training we will have 16 leaders
- Continued to provide support for all providers graded Requires Improvement or Inadequate following Ofsted inspection. As of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 sixty providers (pre-schools, nurseries, childminders and schools) were receiving support, advice and bespoke training from staff in the Achievement and Early Years Service and Early Years Finance Team
- Delivered 10 'Thinking of Becoming a Childminder' sessions in Thetford, Kings Lynn and Norwich. These sessions were attended by a total of 61 people. There have been 43 new childminder registrations in the past year
- Delivered 'Leading your setting successfully' training to 18 practitioners and funded 10 practitioners to undertake degree level training
- Continued to conduct safeguarding audits of all registered early years provision in the private and voluntary sector. 399 audits have been completed to date.
- Provided an all year round advice line for providers to contact the Achievement & Early Years Service or Finance Teams. We have seen an increase of 62% in the volume of calls to the advice line since it started in 2017

Figure 2. Volume of calls made to the Early Years Advice Line



NCC Achievement & Early Years Team, September 2019



## 4. Childcare sufficiency - Areas for development

To ensure sufficient high quality early years and childcare provision, Norfolk County Council will:

### 4.1 Data/sufficiency

- Provide analysis of termly sufficiency audits, with follow up from Early Years Development Workers, so that any sufficiency issues are addressed as quickly as possible
- Continue to encourage creative partnership working between registered providers to develop childcare places in areas of unmet need or where the current offer does not meet parental demand
- Target new place development in areas of housing development and community growth, aligned with school place planning
- Continue to monitor the number of providers to ascertain potential reasons for closure and identify actions to address, including active recruitment in areas of identified need
- Develop detailed analysis of sufficiency within primary school catchment areas, i.e. to understand differences in supply and demand at local level
- Ensure award of sustainability and start-up funding reflects both identified and emerging shortfall in provision
- Review processes focused on encouraging take up of funded places, particularly 2 year old places, in areas where take up rates are lowest
- Carry out a funding consultation in relation to changes to the Early Years Funding Formula and implement any agreed changes from April 2020

### 4.2 Family Information

- Market the Family Information digital channels to increase access to information, advice and guidance
- Promote Norfolk Education Online (NEO) – enabling parents/carers and providers to interact with the Early Years Service digitally for better and quicker outcomes
- Ensure NCC Services, partners and providers working with families are regularly updated about the early education and childcare entitlements
- Further develop community connections with the Early Child and Family Service (ECFS) bases and local groups working with families via outreach sessions to help support and inform parents about early/home learning and childcare
- Work in partnership with the Community Communication Champions
- Ensure information provided is accessible to all
- Ensure support available is clearly identifiable and promoted for children or families with SEND and/or where English is an additional language

### 4.3 Special educational needs and disabilities (SEN&D)

- Develop and improve the quality of the digital offer to enable providers to more easily access up to date information as well as learning and networking opportunities around inclusion and Special Educational Needs

- Further develop the use of data from the Early Identification Notice (EIN). To include the sharing of data at key points with other educational/SEN teams to ensure they are fully aware and prepared to accept children with SEND
- Work with colleagues to further develop a robust and effective transition document available for parents, early years providers and schools to ensure transparency and evidence good practice
- Through a training programme: enhance and develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of Early Years SENCOs in performing their role effectively. On completion delegates will gain the NCFE Cache Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Coordinator in Early Years Settings

#### 4.4 Quality/workforce development

- Continue to extend the system leaders peer support network alongside the rollout the Early Years Professional Development Fund
- Allocate an Early Years Adviser and/or Development Worker to all settings, schools and childminders with an Ofsted grade of Requires Improvement or Inadequate, who will signpost to relevant training, give advice, support with action planning and monitor improvement
- “Thinking of becoming a childminder” briefings to be delivered in areas where places are needed
- Provide focused support and/or training for providers to develop their business and financial model
- Continue to support providers with safeguarding and welfare, teaching and learning issues through advice and guidance from the Achievement & Early Years Service
- Complete outstanding safeguarding audits with all registered early years and childcare providers in the private and voluntary sector, reporting outcomes to the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Continue to deliver termly Leaders and Managers/Childminder briefings sessions and Finance/Portal briefings to keep providers up to date with local and national changes to policy

## 5. Support for parents

### 5.1 Affordability

For childcare to be sustainable providers need to ensure their operating costs are met by the income generated. At the same time, childcare needs to be affordable to parents and carers.

The local authority does not determine the business models of childcare providers as the childcare sector is influenced by market forces. Nevertheless, the local authority has a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient affordable childcare for parents who need it and stimulate the market where a gap is identified.

Legislation stipulates that local authorities should not intervene in providers' private businesses outside of a child's funded place.

### 5.2 Help with childcare costs

There are many systems available to parents and carers to help with childcare costs. Parents and carers must select the arrangement that is best suited to their personal circumstances as, for example, employee childcare vouchers may affect the amount of credits payable.

#### Universal credit

Universal Credit is the new benefit system that eventually replaced tax credits and other benefit schemes and was phased in between April 2013 and December 2018.

Households who are receiving tax credits continue to receive these unless and until:

- they have a significant change of circumstance triggering a new claim for UC (this is natural migration to UC), or
- their circumstances don't change but the DWP moves them across to UC (a process called managed migration, which is being piloted in Harrogate from July 2019)

Universal Credit will be paid as a single monthly payment that will include a standard allowance plus other 'elements' one of which will be childcare and managed by district, borough and city councils.

Parents/carers may be eligible for up to 85% of their childcare costs per month, which is up to £646.35 for one child and £1,108.04 for 2 or more children.

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

#### Tax free childcare scheme

The Government introduced a new tax-free childcare scheme in 2017 which is replacing childcare voucher schemes. To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each earning at least £131 a week and not more than £100,000 each per year.

Under this system 20% of annual childcare costs will be paid for by the Government. Parent/carers can open an online account through the gov.uk website and pay into it to cover childcare costs.

For every 80p paid into this account the Government will pay in an additional 20p, up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 a year per child (or £4,000 per year for a child with disabilities).

The scheme is open to families with children under 12 (and children with disabilities up to the age of 17) who are not already claiming Universal Credit.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

## 6. Population

- 6.1 According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2017 Mid-Year Population estimates Norfolk's population is around 898,390. This is approximately 1.6% of the population of England. The population is projected to increase by 5.9% by 2026.

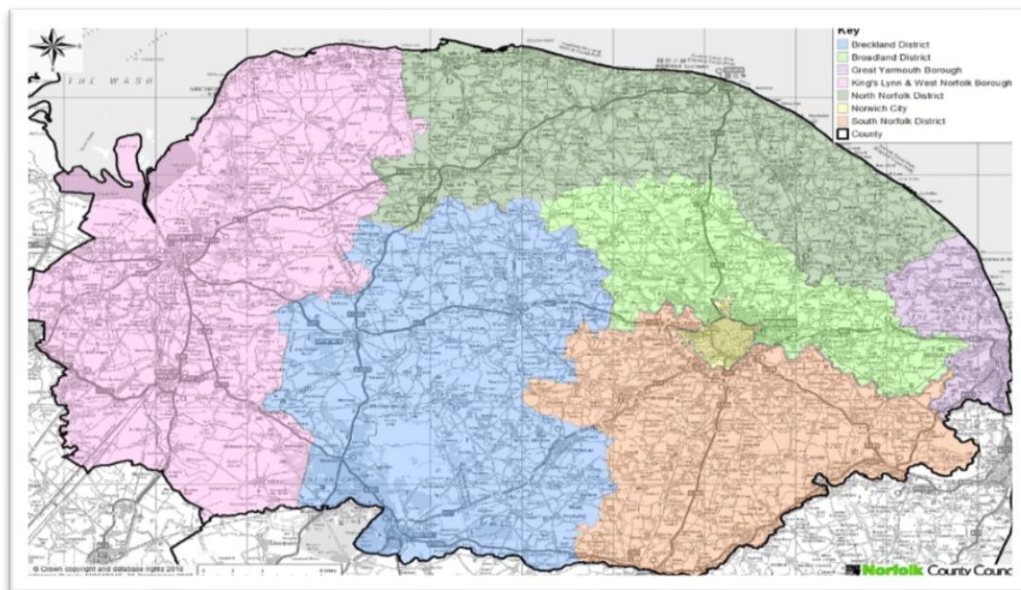
**Figure 3. Projected population increase from 2026 and 2041 from ONS 2016 sub national population projections**

District	2016	2026	2041	Increase 2016-2026 %	Increase 2016 - 2041%
Breckland	137,100	147,900	159,400	7.9	16.3
Broadland	127,400	133,100	140,300	4.5	10.1
Great Yarmouth	99,000	101,600	104,900	2.6	6.0
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	151,800	159,000	166,800	4.7	9.9
North Norfolk	103,600	107,900	113,800	4.2	9.9
Norwich	139,900	147,400	156,500	5.4	11.9
South Norfolk	133,000	147,200	160,600	10.7	20.1
<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>891,700</b>	<b>944,100</b>	<b>1,002,300</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>

ONS sub national population projections 2016, published 24/5/18, figures may not equal due to rounding

- 6.2 Over the last five years since 2012, Norfolk's population has increased by 3.9%.
- 6.3 It is estimated that there are approximately 174,000 children aged 0-17.
- 6.4 Norfolk comprises of seven district council areas; Norwich, North Norfolk, Breckland, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Broadland, Great Yarmouth and South Norfolk District Councils. South Norfolk, Norwich and Breckland are projected to be the fastest growing districts in the county.

**Figure 4: Map of Norfolk districts**



Norfolk County Council CS E-Publishing Team July 2019

6.5 The table in Figure 5 shows the breakdown of numbers of children aged 0 to 14 and 15-18 year old children with disabilities living within each of the 7 districts, shown by age.

**Figure 5 - Table of population of children age 0 - 14 and children with disabilities age 15 – 18**

Age	Breckland	Broadland	Great Yarmouth	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	North Norfolk	Norwich	South Norfolk	Norfolk
0	1,418	1,125	1,105	1,552	775	1,647	1,299	<b>8,921</b>
1	1,518	1,197	1,101	1,650	784	1,664	1,412	<b>9,326</b>
2	1,545	1,221	1,104	1,716	837	1,559	1,411	<b>9,393</b>
3	1,537	1,213	1,108	1,693	899	1,682	1,409	<b>9,541</b>
4	1,622	1,340	1,119	1,803	819	1,664	1,601	<b>9,968</b>
5	1,575	1,386	1,164	1,767	990	1,774	1,514	<b>10,170</b>
6	1,648	1,367	1,142	1,776	985	1,579	1,633	<b>10,130</b>
7	1,596	1,314	1,246	1,680	971	1,542	1,653	<b>10,002</b>
8	1,551	1,394	1,078	1,676	919	1,590	1,649	<b>9,857</b>
9	1,614	1,376	1,200	1,731	973	1,566	1,591	<b>10,051</b>
10	1,507	1,465	1,131	1,675	932	1,457	1,531	<b>9,698</b>
11	1,462	1,294	1,033	1,592	945	1,366	1,556	<b>9,248</b>
12	1,391	1,407	1,041	1,485	929	1,355	1,469	<b>9,077</b>
13	1,373	1,307	1,031	1,508	930	1,200	1,563	<b>8,912</b>
14	1,309	1,340	1,019	1,468	925	1,144	1,488	<b>8,693</b>
CWD 15-18	105	104	52	135	73	117	98	<b>684</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,771</b>	<b>19,850</b>	<b>16,674</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>13,686</b>	<b>22,906</b>	<b>22,877</b>	<b>143,671</b>

Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid 2017-ONS Revised 28/06/2018, (CWD updated 25/07/19)

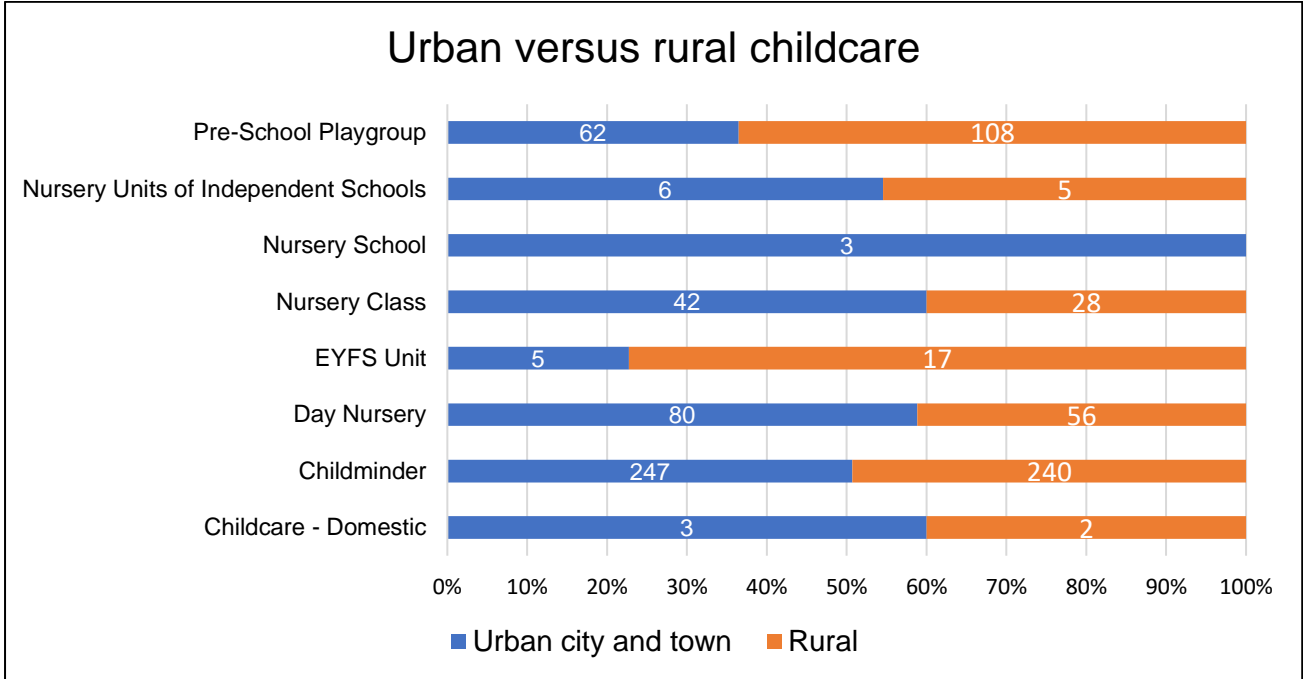
6.6 There are approximately 47,149 children aged from birth up to four years

6.7 There are 35,930 children in Norfolk age 11 – 14.

6.8 While Norfolk's land area is around 93% rural, just over half of residents live in an environment that can be classed as urban. Over the past six years, there has been a shift in where people live in Norfolk, with an increase in numbers of people living in urban settings and a corresponding reduction of people living in rural settings. All districts except North Norfolk have at least one third of their population living in urban areas and none of Norfolk's districts is wholly rural. (Norfolk Story, 2019)

6.9 Just under half of families in Norfolk live in a rural area with these children being largely served by voluntary pre-schools and childminders

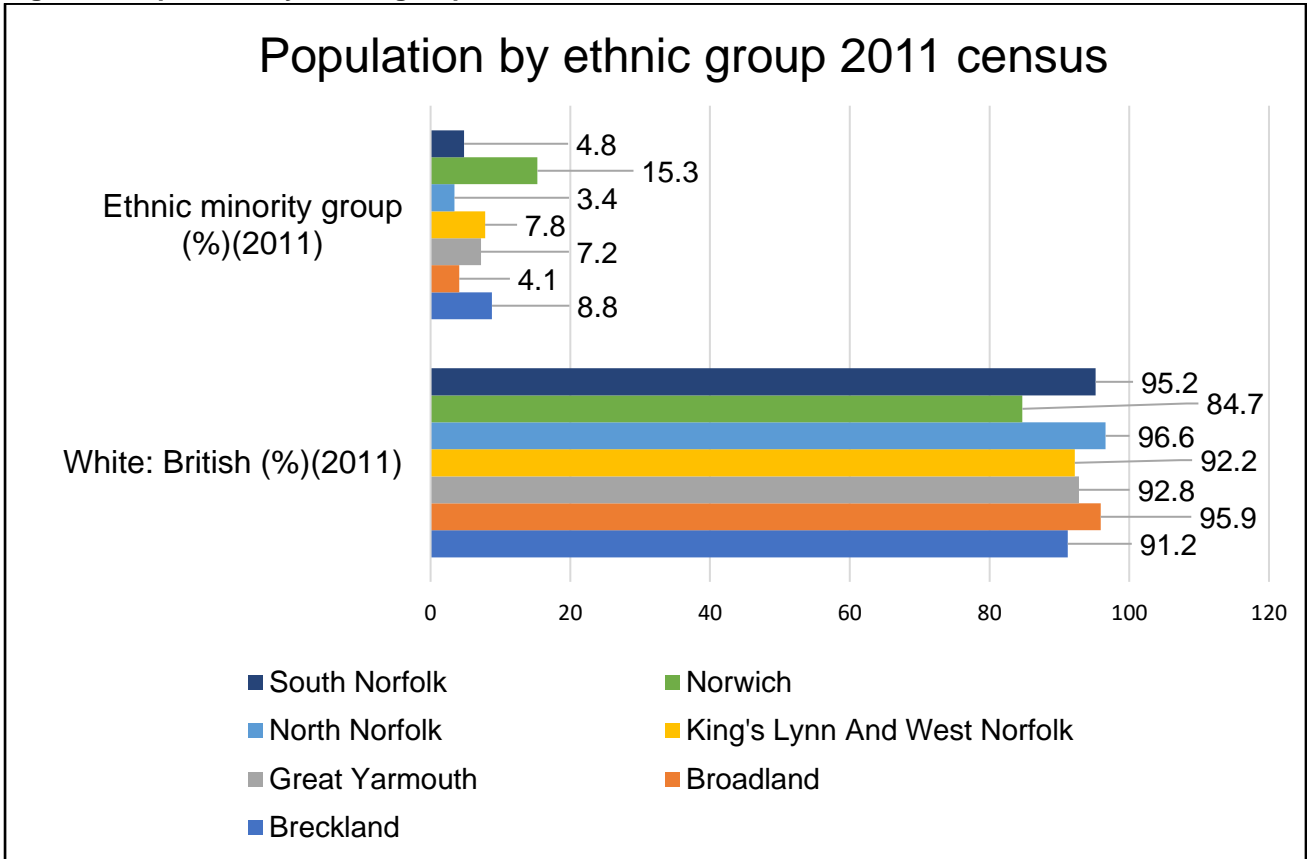
**Figure 6. Comparison of numbers of urban and rural childcare providers**



NCC Postcode Gazetteer & Synergy Education Live June 2019

6.10 Population in Norfolk is characterized as predominately White British, with Norwich having the highest levels of other ethnicities

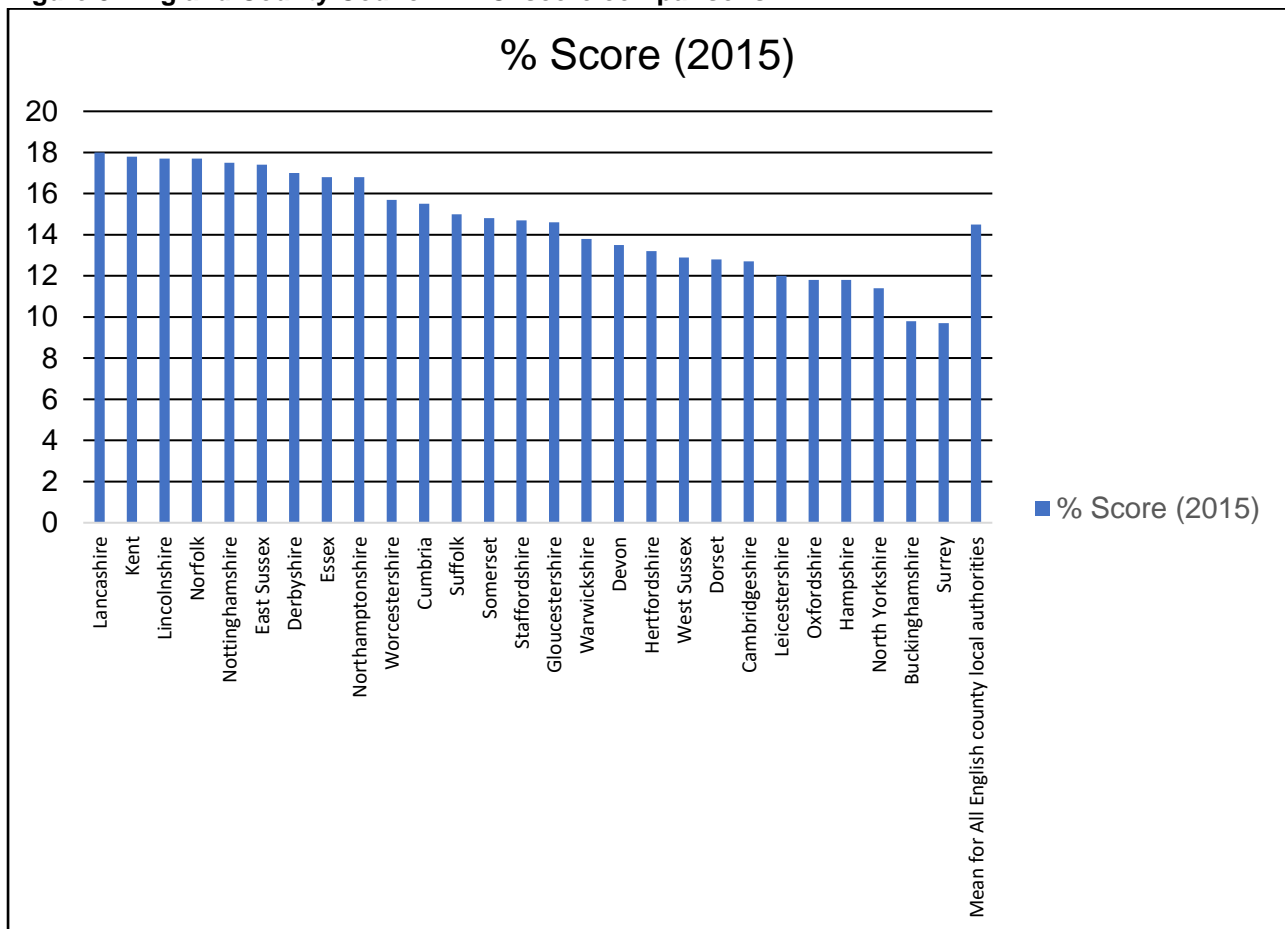
**Figure 7. Population by ethnic group 2011**



NCC Norfolk Insight, 2011 Census

- 6.11 There are around 130 languages spoken in Norfolk. English is not the first language of around 7,800 school children in the county and of these around a fifth are aged 0 to 5 years. Polish is the most widely spoken first language other than English across Norfolk’s school children, with Portuguese being the second and Lithuanian the third
- 6.12 The Indices of Deprivation 2015 show that Norfolk has experienced an increase in relative deprivation compared with 2010. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) indicates Norfolk had the fourth highest score of the county councils in England in 2015

**Figure 8. England County Council IDACI score comparisons**



Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation

- 6.13 Around 68,200 Norfolk residents live in areas which have been classified as being among the 10% most deprived in England. The most deprived areas in Norfolk are still concentrated in the urban areas of Great Yarmouth, Norwich, King’s Lynn and Thetford.
- 6.14 The labour market profile comparison between Norfolk, East of England and Great Britain shows Norfolk is performing as well as nationally for being economically active but falls behind the East of England average.



6.15 Norfolk has a higher percentage of unemployed people than the regional average but is lower than the national average

**Figure 9. Employment and unemployment of 16-64's and percentage of population**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Economically Active</b>	<b>In employment</b>	<b>Employees</b>	<b>Self-employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>
Norfolk	78.5%	75.4%	64.3%	10.9%	4.0%
East of England	80.8%	78.2%	66.3%	11.5%	3.5%
Great Britain	78.5%	75.1%	64.3%	10.6%	4.2%

NOMIS Jan 2018-Dec 2018

## 7. Projected housing growth

- 7.1 There are several major growth areas in Norfolk which will see future economic expansion, new housing, new schools and other infrastructure planning and investment. These are detailed in NCC's 2018 Local Growth and Investment Plan (LGIP). New housing will attract the need for childcare provision that may be above the supply level of existing local provision.

**Figure 10. Number of children aged 3 and 4 living in new housing**

<b>District</b>	<b>LGIP projected housing</b>	<b>Number of additional 3-4 year olds</b>
Breckland	10,400	1,008
Broadland	14,700	1,426
Great Yarmouth	1,000	97
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	5,400	524
North Norfolk	600	59
Norwich	1,000	97
South Norfolk	9,850	956
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,950</b>	<b>4,167</b>

NCC LGIP 2018-19

- 7.2 The new housing is predominantly centered around the Greater Norwich Growth Triangle to the north and east of the city and growth in the urban areas along the A11 corridor towards Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
- 7.3 The NCC Place Planning Team comment weekly on infrastructure requirements for new planning applications received by the districts and county planning officers for sites over 20 mixed-bed dwellings. The area planning targets for housing growth are reported on within the listed Early Years Area Sufficiency Profiles, available at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/childcare-advice-and-guidance/childcare-sufficiency>

## 8. Sufficiency of childcare places

- 8.1 Norfolk currently has 877 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate on more than one site and more than one type of childcare, such as a school having a nursery class alongside a pre-school or EYFS Unit

Figure 11. Childcare provision in Norfolk

Childcare provider type	Sep 17	Dec 18	Jun 19	Diff. Sep 17 to Dec 18	Diff. Dec 18 to Jun 19
Day Nursery	137	135	131	-2	-4
Pre-school Playgroup	180	166	155	-14	-9
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	534	486	465	-48	-21
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	12	12	11	0	-1
School Run (Nursery School, Nursery Class, Day Nursery, Pre-school & EYFS Unit)	110	117	115	+7	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>-37</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live June 2019

- 8.2 The number of early years and childcare provider types in the county continues to reduce marginally each year. In the 2018 CSA the numbers of pre-schools, childminders, nursery classes, nursery schools and day nurseries were 916, this has dropped 4.25% to 877 over the 6 month period to June 2019.
- 8.3 Not all childcare providers offer the funded early education entitlement. Figure 12 shows the number of childcare providers offering free early education entitlement in both the private, voluntary and independent (PIV) sector and those run by local authority-maintained schools and academies sector, by District Council area.

Figure 12. Number of childcare providers offering funded places by district council

District	Day nursery	Pre-school playgroup	Childminder and childcare - domestic	Nursery units of independent schools	School run provision	Total
Breckland	22	25	45	3	16	111
Broadland	14	28	56	1	12	111
Great Yarmouth	14	7	23	0	18	62
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	24	27	57	1	21	130
North Norfolk	15	14	21	1	19	70
Norwich	17	16	26	3	17	79
South Norfolk	23	36	58	1	11	129
<b>Norfolk Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>692</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live June 2019

8.4 The number and distribution of funded childcare places being offered by childcare providers varies between each district, with most places located within urban areas. Whilst the overall number of places across the county meets need, for families living in rural areas the choice of type of provision is more limited.

**Figure 13. Number of funded places available for 3 & 4 year olds by District**

District	Day nursery	Pre-school playgroup	Childminder and childcare - domestic	Nursery units of independent schools	School run provision	Total
Breckland	1,004	898	205	88	660	<b>2,855</b>
Broadland	588	1,094	265	45	449	<b>2,441</b>
Gt Yarmouth	722	336	128	-	684	<b>1,870</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,193	828	226	48	665	<b>2,960</b>
North Norfolk	557	462	108	40	490	<b>1,657</b>
Norwich	676	678	121	228	919	<b>2,622</b>
South Norfolk	952	1,046	225	80	474	<b>2,777</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,692</b>	<b>5,342</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>17,182</b>

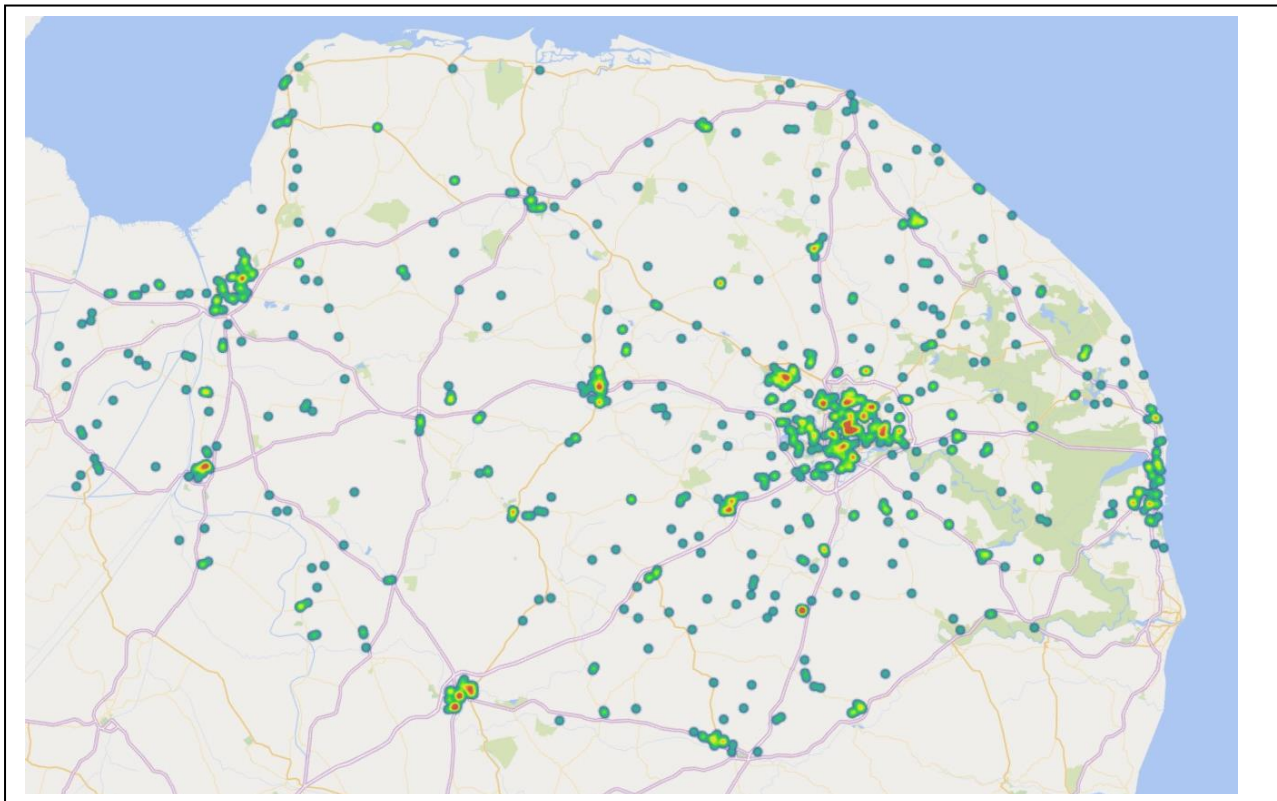
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**Figure 14. Number of funded places available for 2 year olds by District**

District	Day nursery	Pre-school playgroup	Childminder and childcare - domestic	Nursery units of independent schools	School run provision	Total
Breckland	326	255	50	0	28	<b>659</b>
Broadland	232	294	57	0	50	<b>633</b>
Gt Yarmouth	352	168	27	-	92	<b>639</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	412	387	50	12	68	<b>929</b>
North Norfolk	207	172	20	0	72	<b>471</b>
Norwich	245	223	32	0	98	<b>598</b>
South Norfolk	319	384	58	0	8	<b>769</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>4,698</b>

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**Figure 15. Location of childcare providers offering funded places**



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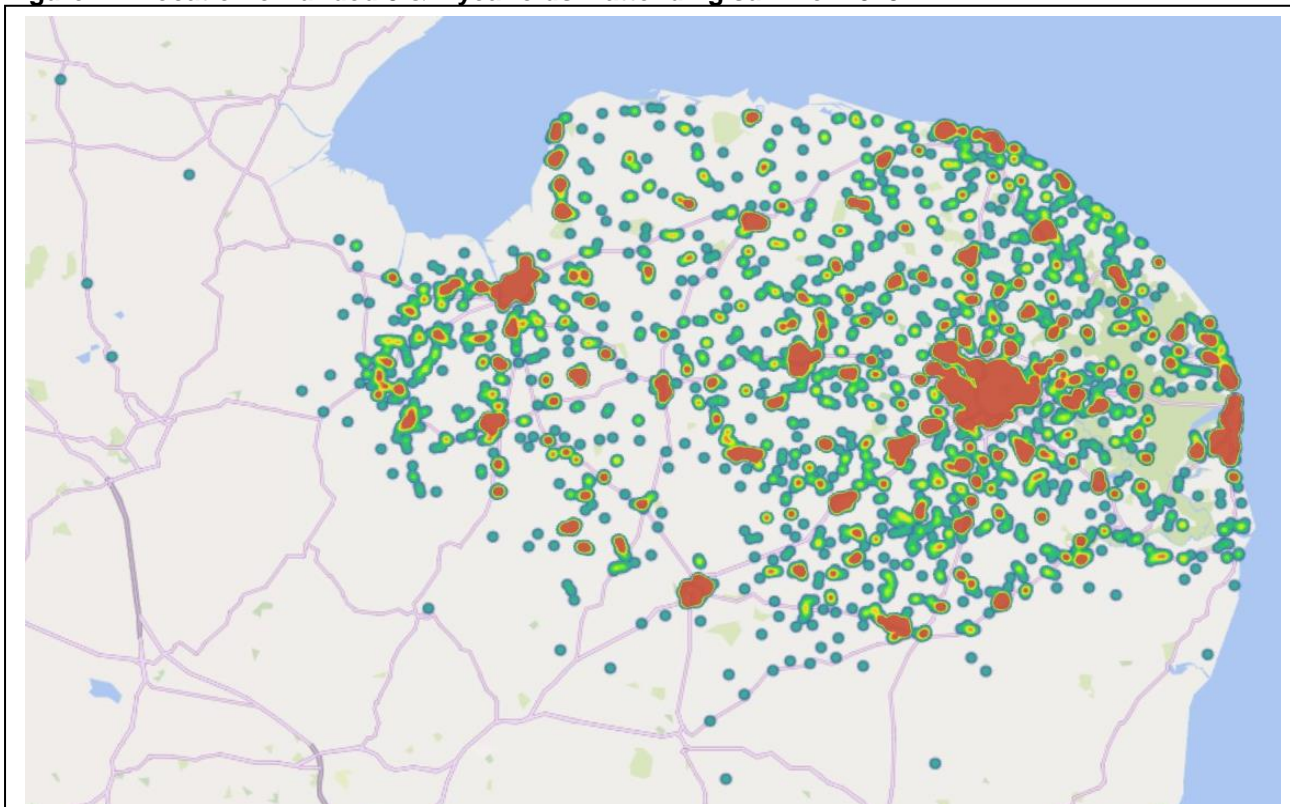
8.5 Take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is high across all areas of the county, the lowest take up being in Breckland.

**Figure 16. Take up for 15 hour funded places for 3 & 4 year olds by district for summer 2019**

<b>District</b>	<b>No of 3 &amp; 4 year old children, April 2019</b>	<b>Funded</b>	<b>Take up %</b>
Breckland	3,026	2,700	89.2%
Broadland	2,566	2,472	96.3%
Great Yarmouth	2,204	2,053	93.1%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	3,317	3,018	91.0%
North Norfolk	1,713	1,641	95.8%
Norwich	3,232	2,979	92.2%
South Norfolk	3,139	2,872	91.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>17,735</b>	<b>92.4%</b>

NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2019

**Figure 17. Location of funded 3 & 4 year olds – attending summer 2019**



NCC Attendance report for summer claim period 2019

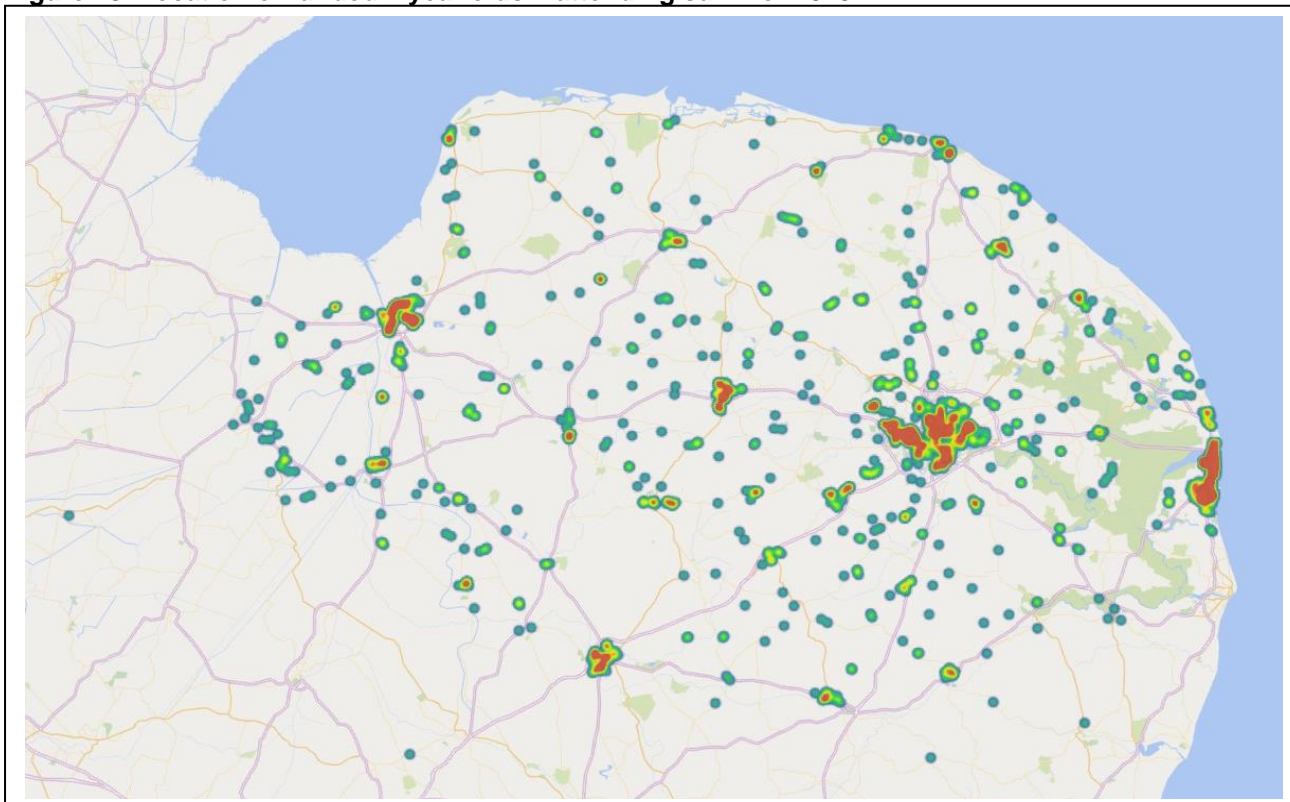
8.6 Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take up is lower than for the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Take up rates are influenced by factors such as parental preference for keeping the child at home, which is particularly relevant for 2 year olds, not enough local childcare to meet parental preference and informal childcare being used instead.

**Figure 18. Supply and demand for 15 hour funded places for 2YOs by district for summer 2019**

District	Total 2YO's, April 2019	No of children with eligibility code	Total 2YOs accessing	% of children accessing a place	No eligible % of 2YO Population
Breckland	1,487	281	260	93%	19%
Broadland	1,222	168	152	90%	14%
Great Yarmouth	1,099	107	339	100%	10%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,478	379	308	81%	26%
North Norfolk	797	153	162	100%	19%
Norwich	1,565	458	365	80%	29%
South Norfolk	1,501	232	225	97%	15%
From Out of County			21		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,111</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>20%</b>

NCC CHIS, eligibility and take up figures for summer claim period 2019

**Figure 19. Location of funded 2 year olds – attending summer 2019**



NCC Attendance report for summer claim period 2019

8.7 Nationally, the total number of children in a 30 hours place is equal to 94% of the eligibility codes issued to parents. In Norfolk, the number of children taking up the extended entitlement (30 hours) for the summer claim period 2019 is lower at 92%. For the same period in 2018 the Norfolk take up was 97%, a drop of 5%

**Figure 20. Number accessing extended entitlement and take up of those eligible**

District	verified validation codes	claiming extended hours	not claiming	% of eligible children accessing extended hours
Breckland	878	813	65	93%
Broadland	864	806	58	93%
Great Yarmouth	438	405	33	92%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	930	867	63	93%
North Norfolk	514	472	42	92%
Norwich	571	511	60	89%
South Norfolk	967	892	75	92%
District unknown	233	216	17	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,395</b>	<b>4,982</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>92%</b>

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8.8 Data regarding cost of childcare to parents is gathered annually by via the Early Years Census in January and via provider portal updates. The current average charge for childcare will be a combination of these figures depending on when and if the provider updated their details with any changes. The charge per hour has risen

from £4.20 to £4.23 since September 2018

**Figure 21. Average charge per hour for early years childcare by type and district July 2019**

District	Childminders and childcare -	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups
Breckland	£3.79	£4.45	£3.98
Broadland	£4.15	£4.93	£4.23
Great Yarmouth	£3.84	£4.25	£3.42
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£3.98	£4.68	£3.83
North Norfolk	£4.12	£4.76	£3.36
Norwich	£4.56	£4.86	£4.26
South Norfolk	£4.21	£5.08	£4.18
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£4.09</b>	<b>£4.72</b>	<b>£3.89</b>

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8.9 Childcare for younger children is often the most expensive due to factors such as staff/child ratios etc. Most parents find that their childcare costs reduce as their child grows and all children are entitled to some form of funded nursery education from the age of three, meaning childcare fees for parents fall.

8.10 The average prices in Figure 20 have been compared to figures for September 2016 in Figure 21 below showing the percentage increase.

**Figure 22. Percentage price increase per hour across childcare types**

	Childminders & childcare-domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)
Average price September 2016	£3.93	£4.45	3.55
Average Price July 2019	£4.09	4.72	3.89
<b>Average % price increase</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	<b>5.72%</b>	<b>8.74%</b>

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8.11 The average UK inflation rate for the last 5 years indicate childcare prices have increased above the rate of inflation

**Figure 23. UK inflation rate**

Date	UK inflation rate
Average inflation rate May 2015	<b>0.1%</b>
Average inflation rate May 2016	<b>0.3%</b>
Average inflation rate May 2017	<b>2.9%</b>
Average inflation rate May 2018	<b>2.7%</b>
Average inflation rate May 2019	<b>2%</b>

Update 19 June 2019 <https://www.rateinflation.com/inflation-rate/uk-historical-inflation-rate>



## 9. Consultation with parents/carers pre-school children

- 9.1 Consultation with parents/carers is an important part of establishing the demand for childcare. Parents/carers were invited to complete an on line SmartSurvey during July 2019 asking about their experiences of childcare.
- 9.2 Dissemination of the survey was achieved by posting links via Norfolk County Council's Family Information social media accounts, the NCC Website and NCC employee newsletters.
- 9.3 A total of 477 questionnaires were fully completed by parents/carers with an additional 247 partially completed. For data accuracy the partially completed questionnaires have been disregarded for this analysis. Of the 477 completed questionnaires 204 are regarding pre-school children only and 273 regarding school age children aged 5+ only. 383 respondents have children within both age ranges
- 9.4 Though 477 completed questionnaires represent a very small proportion of parents with pre-school and school age children in Norfolk the following observations are drawn from the information received.
- 9.5 Pre-school age children
- Most respondents are paying for pre-school childcare, half of which are not eligible for funded entitlement whilst the remainder are paying for additional hours on top of accessing their funded early years entitlement
  - Most respondents chose their pre-school childcare provider having visited and liked the 'feel' of the place
  - Only a small number of respondents said they didn't use formal childcare when they were eligible, confirming the high take-up rate of funded entitlement in the county
  - The three hours between 9am and 12pm is the period most pre-school childcare is needed by respondents followed by 12 to 3pm. Childcare is required by respondents in equal measure for both 8am to 9am and 3pm to 5pm
  - Nearly two thirds of respondents said they required pre-school childcare during school holidays because of work commitments whilst the rest didn't need childcare as they either didn't work or that work offered flexible working conditions
- 9.6 School age children
- Nearly all respondents are accessing formal before and after school provision, either on school sites or at other formal provision during term time
  - Just over half of respondents use informal before and after school provision, most in addition to the use of formal provision
  - For those accessing before school provision, 7% of responders are accessing informal provision solely and 9% access both formal and informal provision
  - For those accessing after school provision 20% of responders are accessing informal provision solely and 20% access both formal and informal provision

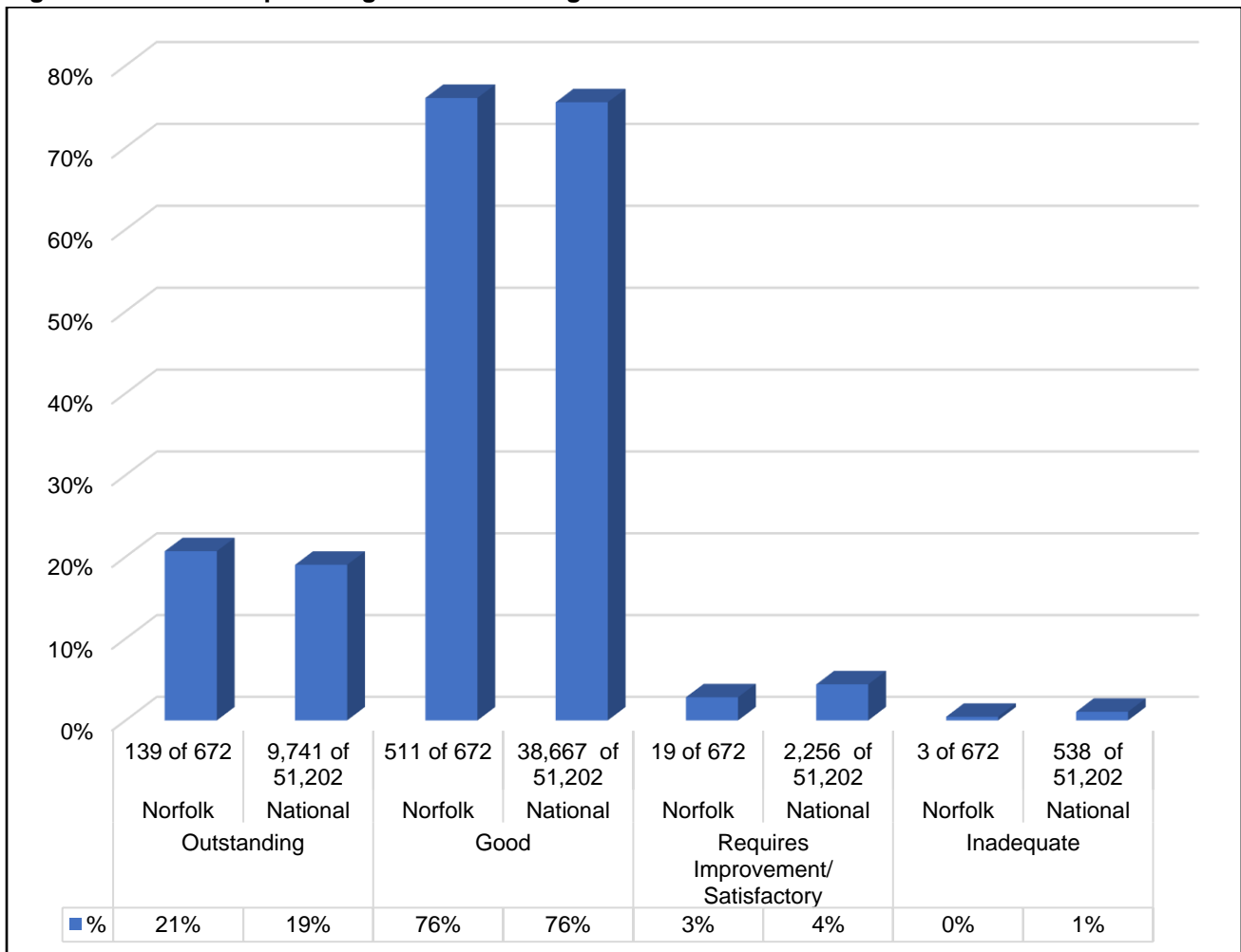
## 10. Demand for childcare

- 10.1 Norfolk County Council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) takes initial enquires and provides general information to families while more complex enquiries are passed to Family Information, which is part of the Education and Early Years Achievement Service. This Service helps parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.
- 10.2 For the period 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019, Family Information responded to 236 enquiries handed over by CSC. The enquiry data showed that most of the customers were parents seeking clarification about funded early education and childcare, particularly 2-year-old funding.
- 10.3 Examples of handing-off from CSC to Family Information;
- R called today about the 2-year funding. She has lost code that was sent to her, are we able to send out a new code?
  - C has paid for early years child care after nursery stated that code wasn't valid. This wasn't correct, and mum wants to know what the options are regarding reclaiming the money as she was charged for childcare in error. Can someone call to discuss?
  - Client is currently receiving 15 hours of free funding and would like to know if she is entitled to any more funded hours as she is on PIP. She doesn't have access to the internet so please can someone call her?
- 10.4 Direct enquiries to CSC have decreased steadily over the last year. In August 2018, the number of enquiries handed over by CSC to Family Information was 15 and in August 2019 the number was 7.
- 10.5 Most people are now accessing information about childcare online with most enquiries being received through email and Facebook. Family Information staff use social media to promote tax credits and to provide information relating to financial assistance for childcare.
- 10.6 The number of 'hits' to the NCC web pages about funded childcare have increased in the last 12 months and includes supporting information for parents and childcare professionals working with families.
- 10.7 Family Information continue to develop innovative ways of communicating with parents to ensure up to date information is sent out to assist parents make informed choices regarding their childcare solutions.

# 11. Quality

- 11.1 Evidence shows that the quality of childcare is a significant factor affecting a child’s future chances. High-quality early education improves children’s school readiness and cognitive development, whilst poor-quality early education does very little to boost children’s development. (2014 Joseph Roundtree Foundation, <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/30-hours-free-childcare-worth-fighting>).
- 11.2 The quality of early provision is measured through inspections undertaken by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). Ofsted is the sole arbiter of quality and through the inspection process, each setting will receive one of four grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate) depending on the inspection findings.
- 11.3 Data on the inspection outcomes of Norfolk based registered early years and childcare providers at their most recent inspection compared to the national picture shows the quality of provision across Norfolk is higher than the national average.

**Figure 24. Ofsted inspection grades to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

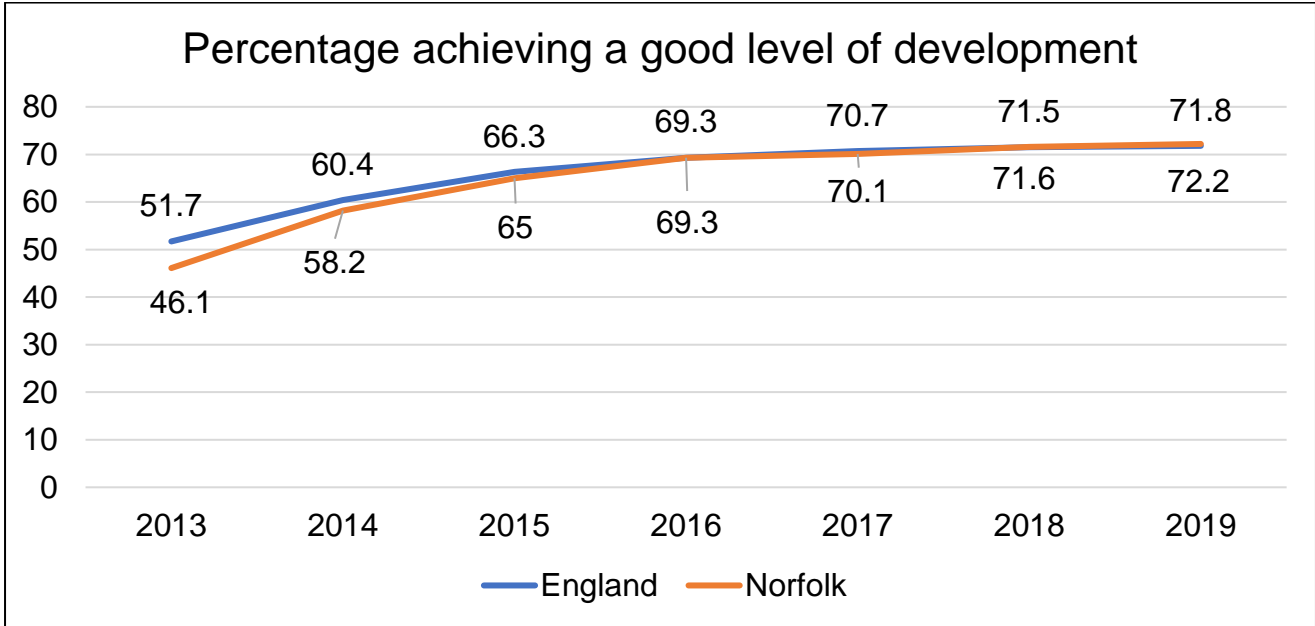


<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2018>

- 11.4 Support is available for providers to improve the quality of delivery and meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Ofsted. The quality of provision plays an important part in the sufficiency of places.

- 11.5 All new childminders are offered a subsidised place on the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years' (PACEY) Level 3 Award in Home Based Childcare, covering every aspect of being a registered childminder. With the continued support offered through the registration process by the EAEYS most childminders and out of school providers achieve good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection.
- 11.6 In 2018-19, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was 72.2%, an increase of 0.6% from the previous year continuing an improving trend.

**Figure 25. Comparison of children’s results at the EYFSP**



NCC Education Achievement Service Annual Standards Report 2019

- 11.7 The attainment of children eligible for FSM decreased by 2 percentage points from 57% to 55% as nationally there was a decline of 1 percentage point from 57% to 56%. For non-FSM pupils there was an increase from 74% to 75% whilst nationally attainment remained the same at 75%.
- 11.8 Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the Achievement & Early Years Service aims to improve outcomes for children through the development of a highly skilled workforce. The training is available to practitioners working in any registered provision, as well as prospective childminders. Courses are subsidised for the private and voluntary sector.
- 11.9 Feedback from providers evidences that the training is needed and valued. Priority is given to providers who have received a ‘Requires Improvement’ or ‘Inadequate’ Ofsted grade to improve practice.
- 11.10 Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a national issue. Norfolk County Council provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce

11.11 The Achievement & Early Years Service are developing a Peer Support Network, which is part of our approach to enable the variety of providers – private, voluntary, childminders, independent, maintained and academy, to work together to deliver sustained improvements. Currently there is a focus on support and development of leaders and this has been enabled through several leaders from outstanding provision accessing peer support/mentoring training. Further work to develop partnership working between settings and schools, and best practice sharing has commenced.

## 12. SEN&D

- 12.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with special educational needs and disability (SEN&D). Nationally it is recognised parents often find it difficult or challenging to access childcare, this may be due to parental confidence in the provider's ability to meet their child's individual needs.
- 12.2 All childcare settings are required to comply with the SEN&D Code of Practice and with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). A wide range of activities and clubs for young people with a disability or additional needs across Norfolk are listed on the Norfolk Local Offer pages at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer).
- 12.3 Research suggests some childcare providers may not be as confident in their own ability to meet the needs of children with high level medical need, particularly if they are a lone worker, such as a childminder. Norfolk County Council offers providers subsidised training, specialist equipment and access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.
- 12.4 Information on childcare is available to all parents online. Additional information is available to parents of children with SEN&D via the Norfolk SEN Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents to gain access to the free funded early years entitlement.
- 12.5 Since April 2017 there is a statutory duty for all Local Authorities to provide an SEN Inclusion Fund. This funding is for early years providers to meet the individual needs of children who are in receipt of 3 and 4-year-old free funded early years entitlement with low level or emerging SEN Eligibility is children.
- 12.6 The number of children accessing rose by 57% during the year with the number of provider increasing 74% over the same period.

**Figure 25. Number of children and childcare providers benefitting from SEN Inclusion Fund**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Number of providers</b>
Autumn 2018	347	98
Spring 2019	501	116
Summer 2019	545	171

NCC AI Team July 2019

- 12.7 There is also funding available for children with more complex need. In Norfolk, complex need is determined by those that have an issued or agreed Education Health Care Plan. 72 children were in receipt of this funding during the summer term 2019.
- 12.8 Although there is not a statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2-year-old Early Education, Norfolk does make provision for them. Requests for additional funding can be made if a child has an identified need that is "additional to and different from".

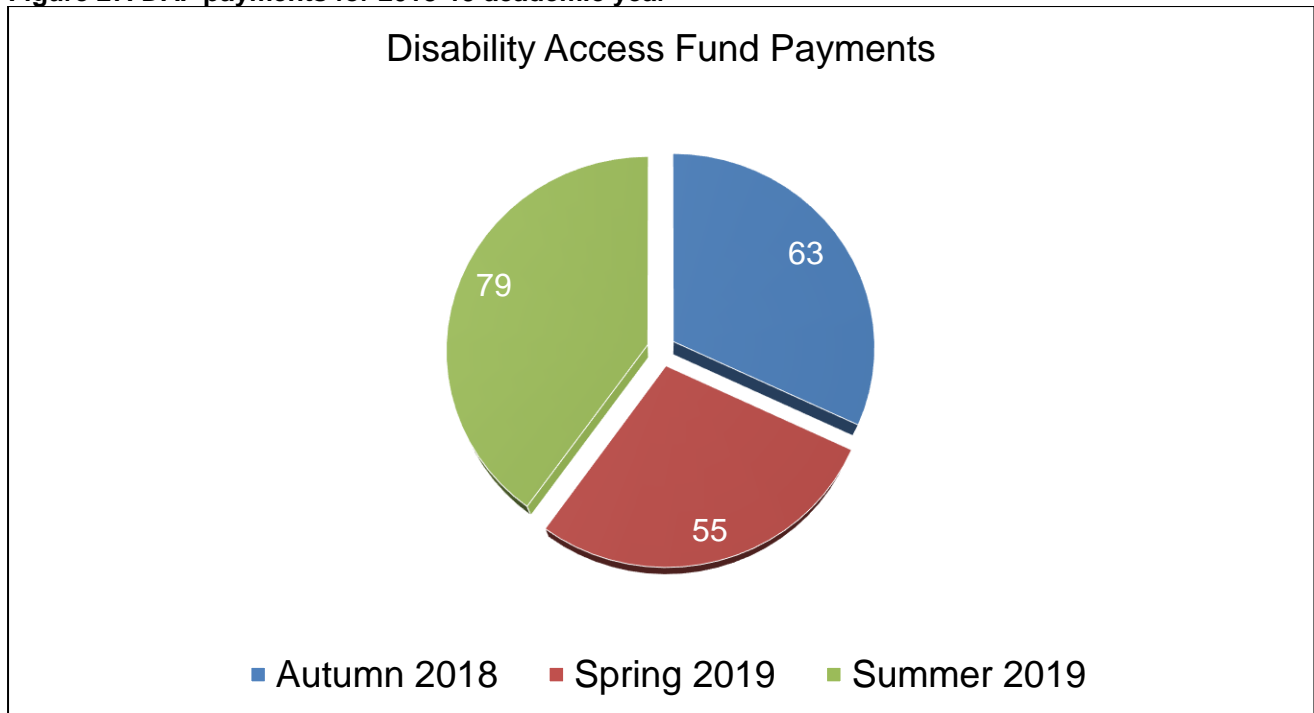
**Figure 26. Number of awards given to assist SEN 2 year olds**

Term	Number of awards
Autumn 2018	101
Spring 2019	108
Summer 2019	94

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12.9 In April 2017, the Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced for early years providers to support children with SEN&D. Its purpose is to remove ‘barriers’ which prevent children from accessing their free funded early education entitlement. To attract DAF, children must be receiving Disability Living Allowance and be in receipt of the 3 and 4 year early education entitlement. This funding of £615 is paid annually to the provider nominated by the parent/carer. In the 2018-19 academic year Norfolk made DAF payment for 197 children. Figure 28 shows the payments on a termly basis.

**Figure 27. DAF payments for 2018-19 academic year**



NCC Early Years Finance Team

12.10 During the summer 2018 term 14,109 three and four year olds claimed early education funding. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) payments were made for 2,297 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across Norfolk. This represents 16.28% of the number of children claiming early years education funding. This represents a good level of take up.

12.12 The identification of eligible children relies upon parents making schools and settings aware so that they can apply for the funding. To ensure as many parents as possible talk with their childcare provider about possible eligibility, publicity work through the Family Information Team will continue to raise awareness and increase the take up rate. <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-learning/free-childcare-and-learning/early-years-pupil-premium>

## 13. Looked after children and early education

- 13.1 Looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.
- 13.2 In Norfolk 176 looked after children (0-4's) were eligible for a free funded childcare place from September 2018 to the end of June 2019. 55 children accessed their funded childcare place (31%).

**Figure 28. Take up of free funded childcare by looked after children**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Number of eligible 0-4's</b>	<b>Number of children accessing free funded childcare</b>	<b>% take up</b>
Autumn 2018	114	25	22%
Spring 2019	120	31	26%
Summer 2019	71	37	52%

NCC Early Years Finance and Virtual School, Looked After Children, Adoption and Special Guardianship Order Team  
June 2019

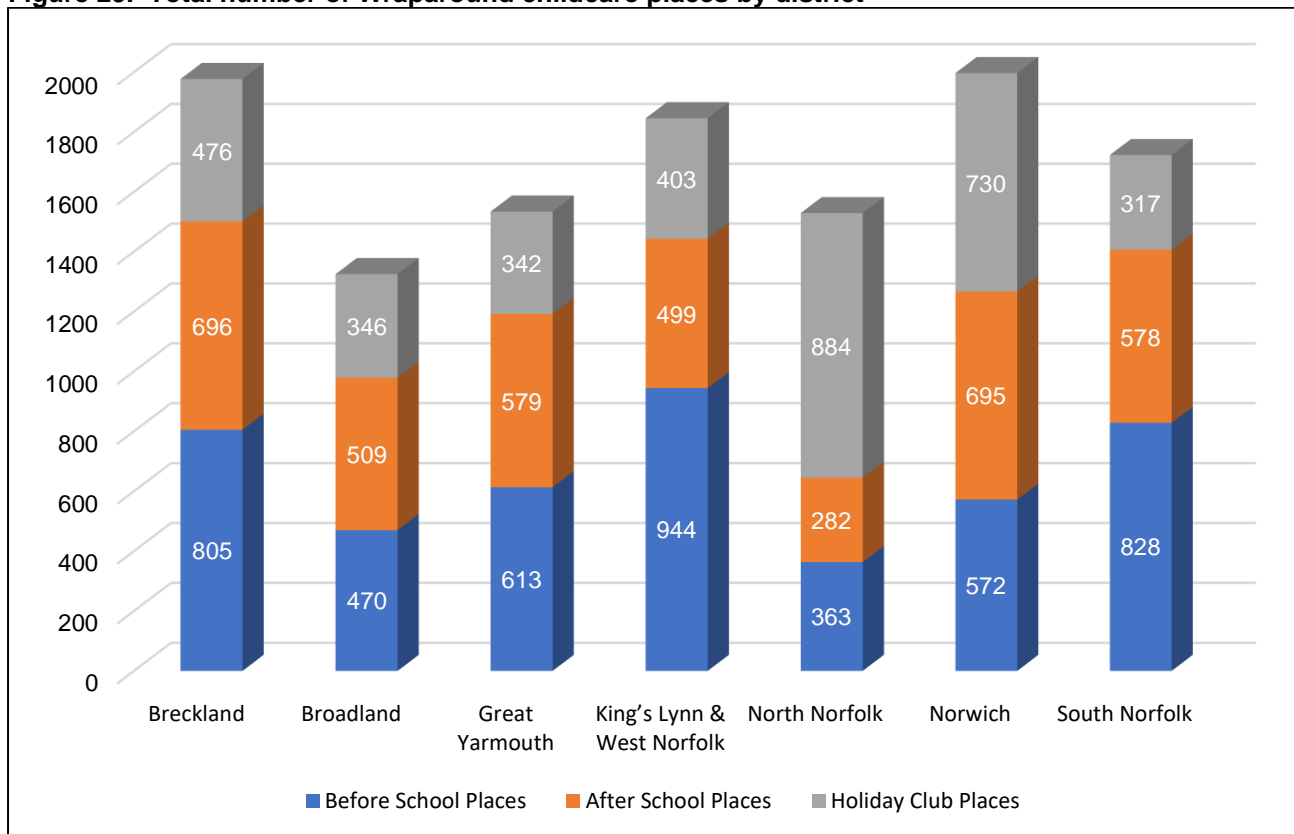
- 13.3 Norfolk's Virtual School, Looked After Children, Adoption and Special Guardianship Order Team is liaising closely with social workers and foster carers to promote the importance of accessing pre-school provision however it is acknowledged that childcare provision may not be suitable for all looked after young children.
- 13.4 From September 2018 some children in foster care have been able to be funded for the extended entitlement. In Norfolk, 10 children were funded under this criterion from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019



## 14. Childcare for children over 5

- 14.1 Out of School childcare includes Breakfast clubs, After School clubs and Holiday Playschemes. This form of childcare can operate either on or off a school site and may be run by the school directly or by Private, Voluntary or Independent partners (PVI).
- 14.2 In addition, many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs, film clubs etc. Although these may not be formally classed as childcare they still provide a safe learning environment for children whilst parents/carers are at work or studying. However, these types of clubs may not operate consistently throughout the school year or may vary from term to term and are often only an hour in duration.
- 14.3 It is recognised that good quality Out of School childcare has a positive effect upon children's outcomes. Research has shown that this type of good quality childcare can improve a child's behavioural, social and emotional skills as well as impacting upon academic performance. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds that attended After School Clubs on average achieve a two points higher score in their Key Stage 2 assessment in English, Math's and Science than those who did not take part in After School clubs. (Wraparound and holiday childcare, Parent and childcare provider 'rights to request', Guidance for local authority maintained schools, academies and free schools, May 2016, p5, paragraphs 12 – 14)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/525135/Rights\\_to\\_request\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525135/Rights_to_request_guidance.pdf)
- 14.4 Dependent upon specific criteria, not all Wraparound provision has to be Ofsted registered and there is no legal requirement to inform the local authority of operation. A provider who only delivers to children age eight or over, or who does not operate for more than two hours a day or provides two activities or less is not legally required to register with Ofsted. A setting may however, choose to join the voluntary part of the childcare register to allow parents to claim childcare vouchers. In addition, providers do not have to meet specified child/adult ratios if they are caring solely for children over the age of eight.
- 14.5 It is, therefore, difficult to determine the exact number of places. Many non-registered holiday activities are run by local leisure centres or sport centres which may also not be represented in the figures. Figure 31 shows the numbers of places reportedly available by all registered providers in Norfolk, by district.
- 14.6 It should be noted that demand for childcare will be significantly lower for young people of secondary school age (11 years and over) as many parents/carers feel their children are independent enough to not require childcare outside of school hours. Therefore, when calculating the number of places, the calculation has only considered the number of children in school aged 4 – 11 and 11 years plus with a disability.

**Figure 29. Total number of Wraparound childcare places by district**



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- 14.7 Figure 29 shows the number of Wraparound childcare places across Norfolk is approximately 11,931. Norfolk has 96,552 children and young people aged 4 – 14 and children with disabilities aged 15 – 18 years, giving an overall figure of approximately 12 childcare places for every 100 children/young people.
- 14.8 Norwich has the highest number of wraparound childcare places across all Out of School provision than all other districts whilst Broadland has the fewest. Where provision in the maintained sector (schools) is high the PVI sector is generally low.
- 14.9 75% of breakfast clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 43% of private, voluntary or independent breakfast clubs are located on school sites. School sites account for 86% of the breakfast clubs offered to parents in Norfolk.
- 14.10 19% of after school clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 43% of private, voluntary or independent after school clubs are located on school sites. School sites account for 76% of the after school clubs offered to parents in Norfolk. This data refers only to Ofsted registered childcare provision and does not consider extra-curricular after school activities such as gardening clubs, film clubs etc. which many schools also run after the end of the school day.
- 14.11 21% of holiday playschemes are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 26% of private, voluntary or independent holiday playschemes are located on school sites. School sites account for 42% of the Holiday Playschemes offered to parents in Norfolk.

14.12 In 2016 parents were given the ‘right to request’ that their child’s school should consider establishing wraparound childcare or allowing PVI providers to use the school facilities to deliver childcare at times when the school is not using them. Whilst it is not compulsory to offer wraparound childcare at parental request, schools should not refuse a request without reasonable justification.

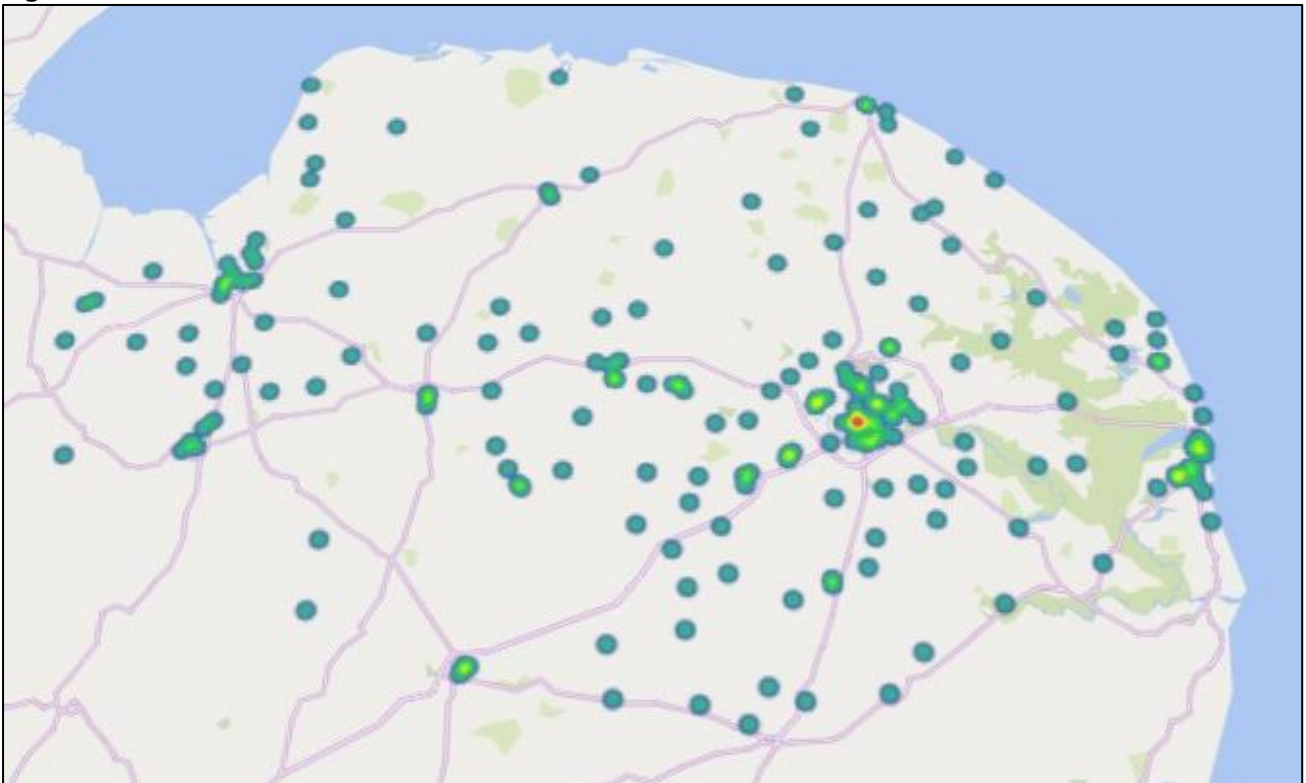
14.13 Figure 30 shows the current average costs of Out of School care for district and for the county.

**Figure 30. Average costs for Out of School childcare by provider type and district**

District	Breakfast Club Session (cost per session)	After School Session (cost per session)	Holiday Playscheme (cost per day)
Breckland	£3.43	£8.16	£26.36
Broadland	£3.38	£7.49	£23.11
Great Yarmouth	£2.57	£6.37	£28.70
King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	£2.59	£8.19	£32.87
North Norfolk	£3.00	£7.52	£26.12
Norwich	£2.29	£7.40	£27.33
South Norfolk	£3.58	£9.63	£26.11
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£2.98</b>	<b>£7.82</b>	<b>£27.23</b>

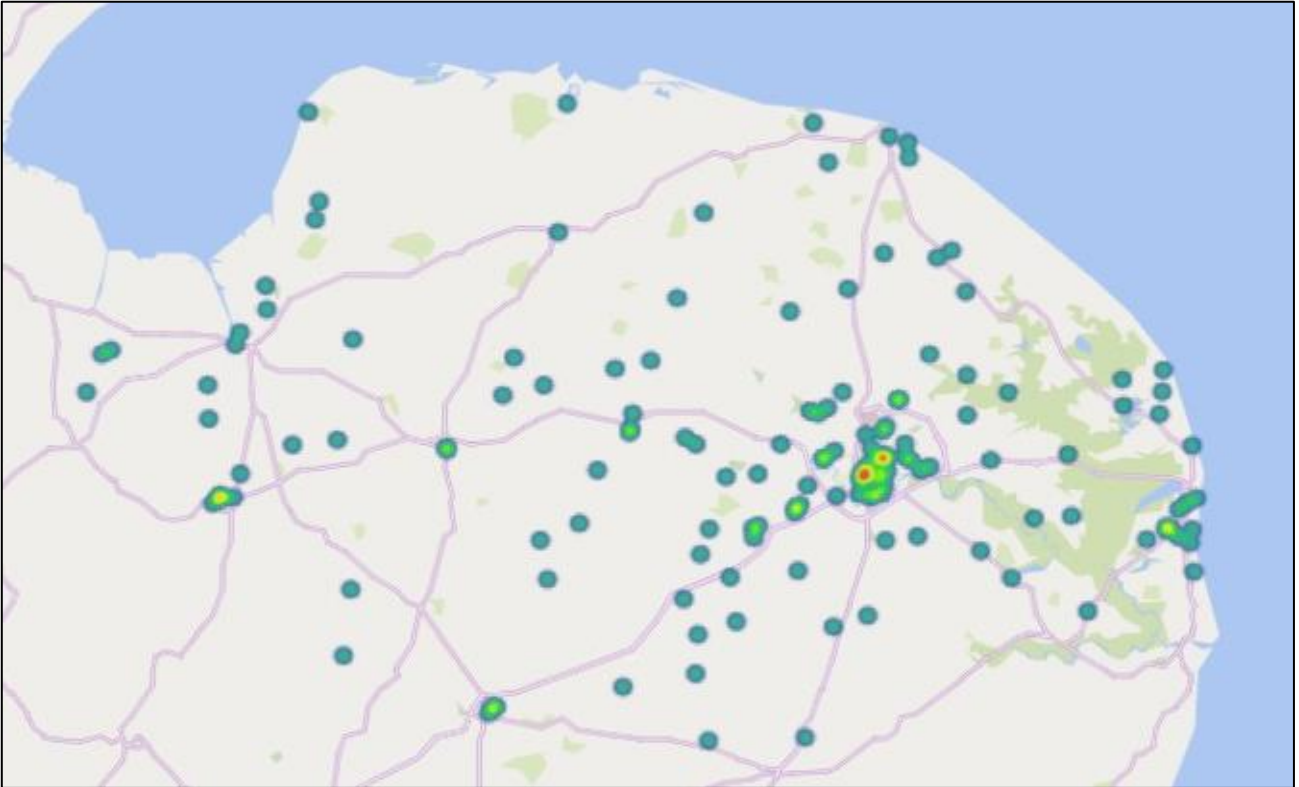
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**Figure 31. Location of Breakfast Clubs**



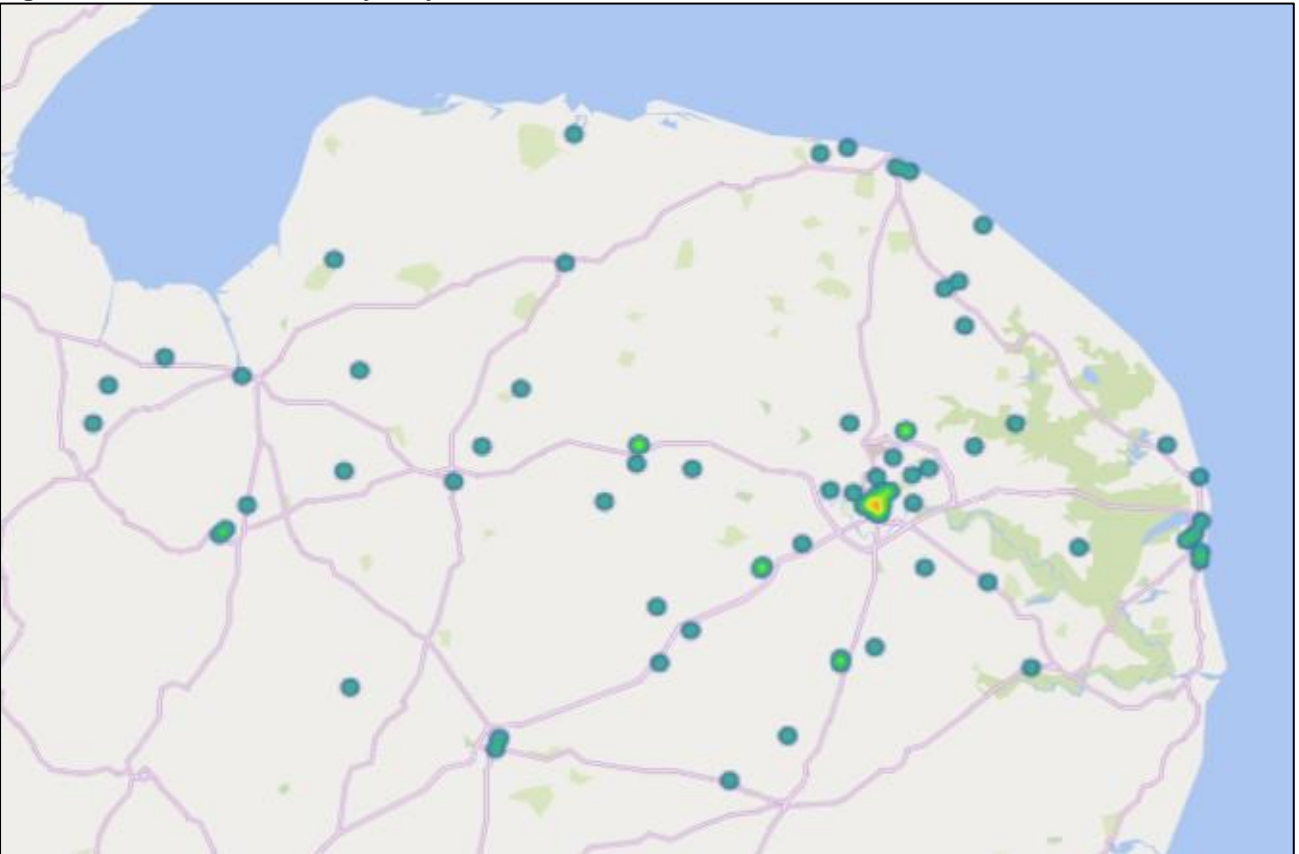
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**Figure 32. Location of After School Clubs**



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**Figure 33. Location of Holiday Playschemes**



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