

# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2020

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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 CSA meets Norfolk County Council's (NCC) 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

It is placed within the context of the ongoing Coronavirus global pandemic which has impacted greatly on families resulting in a changed demand for childcare. The scale and length of this impact is highly unpredictable.

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 on request: [Early Years Advice Line](#)

1.4 The Childcare Act 2006 gives the local authority a key role in shaping the childcare market. NCC is committed to working with providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors (PVI) and the School Run 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 (LA) is required to report annually to elected members and publish information for parents to see how the LA 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 LAs 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 LAs 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 – From April 2020 a working lone parent or both parents need to expect to earn a certain amount over the next 3 months. This is at least the <a href="#">National Minimum Wage or Living Wage</a> for 16 hours a week on average. (Eligibility criteria has been temporarily adapted in response to the Covid-19)

Eligible 2 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. The 570 hours can be stretched over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week.	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 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 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 CSA 2020 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 on request from [Early Years Advice Line](#)

### Norfolk is growing and changing

- Over the coming ten years (2019-2029), according to baseline forecasting figures from Cambridge Econometrics, using the 2019 East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM), the Norfolk population will increase by 61,100 and 22,000 more jobs will be required for the working population plus 39,900 more homes  
<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/EEFM/>

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

- National statistics show there has been a 3 percentage point drop in the take up of childcare places by eligible 2 year old children from 67% in 2019 to 64% in 2020. By comparison the average for England is a slight increase from 68% to 69% for the same period. Norfolk is now 5 percentage points below the national average
- For 3 and 4 year old take up there has been a 2 percentage point drop from 96% to 94% in Norfolk whereas the national average has dropped 1 percentage point from 94% to 93%. Norfolk is now 1 percentage point above the national average
- Across the county 19% of the Early Education hours claimed for 3 and 4 year olds in spring 2020 were for the extended entitlement (30 hours), down 4 percentage points from last year. There were 494 providers offering places for children eligible to claim their extended entitlement, which is three quarters of providers offering universal Early Education places for 3 and 4 year olds
- Numbers of children in any given area will fluctuate from year to year. The most recent local 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 LA by existing providers via the provider portal

### The quality of early education and childcare in Norfolk meets national expectations

- The percentage of Early Years providers currently judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted is currently 95%, down from 97% at 31 August 2019. Nationally this percentage increased from 96% to 97%. Ofsted paused inspection activity in April 2020 due to the Covid pandemic
- The percentage of Norfolk children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is unrecorded this year following the cancellation of assessments due to the impact of Covid-19. In recent years the percentage has been slightly above the national average

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

- The average hourly charge for 0-4's made by providers for daycare in Norfolk is £4.37, up £0.14. from last year's average cost of £4.23 per hour, (see Figure 28). The national average according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2020 for children aged three and four is £5.08, up £0.16 from last year's average cost of £4.92 <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2020>

## **The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted on local childcare provision and demand**

- As of September 2020, one in eight childcare providers in Norfolk had not reopened since the initial lockdown although their Ofsted registrations remain active
- Providers report numbers of children attending childcare is below pre-Covid levels. Norfolk County Council continued to fund early years and education childcare places throughout the initial lockdown for all eligible children
- Many providers closed during the initial lockdown due to low demand or unavailability of staffing. Norfolk Family Information Service received high numbers of calls from parents seeking childcare. Through signposting and partnership working sufficient provision for key worker children was maintained
- The Local Authority has produced regular information alerts and maintained the Early Years Advice Line throughout the pandemic. This has supported providers to open safely and maintain provision
- The Local Authority has taken full advantage of the flexibilities offered by the Department for Education to support providers financially to stay open during the pandemic and continue to meet the needs of parents
- The Local Authority will need to continue to monitor and support the childcare sector closely to ensure that sufficient childcare remain available. Some changes to family work patterns are likely to be permanent so the Local Authority will need to remain agile to respond to the changing demand for places

### **3. Actions taken since the 2019 assessment**

The 2019 Childcare Sufficiency Survey identified several key actions for the LA. As well as these actions we have responded to the impact of Covid-19 on parents and childcare providers. We have:

#### **3.1 Data/sufficiency**

- Completed termly sufficiency audits
- Continued 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
- Targeted new childcare place development in areas of housing development and community growth, aligned with school place planning, such as designing in and building nursery class space for new schools where there is insufficient local childcare provision
- Continued 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
- Developed detailed analysis of sufficiency within Early Years Sufficiency areas to understand differences in supply and demand at local level
- Awarded Sustainability and Start-up funding grants which reflect both identified and emerged shortfall in provision. Several Covid-19 grants were also awarded to support providers sustainability during the pandemic
- Reviewed processes to encourage take up of funded places, particularly 2 year old places, in areas where take up rates were lowest
- The planned funding consultation, in autumn 2019, in relation to changes to the Early Years Funding Formula was delayed due to election purdah

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

- Increased the digital offer via the Parent Portal, web pages and social media platforms to:
  - promote current government guidance and legislation
  - provide accurate information about early education and childcare
  - disseminate key messages about the importance of emotional and wellbeing support in the early years
  - continue to work with partners to connect families to the universal/local support services
  - ensure NCC Services, partners and providers working with families are regularly updated about the early education and childcare entitlements via virtual forums
- Developed 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
- Ensured information provided is accessible to all and is clearly identifiable and promoted for children or families with SEND and/or where English is an additional language



- Worked in partnership with the Community Communication Champions, part of the short term DfE funded Norwich Opportunity Area (NOA) project
- Significantly increased use of the digital offer in response to the challenges to the Family Information service posed by Covid-19
- During the Covid-19 period 1 March – 30 June 2020, Family Information responded to 125 enquiries handed over by NCC's Customer Service Centre (CSC). The enquiry data showed that most of the customers were key worker parents seeking clarification on where they could find alternative childcare when their usual setting had temporarily closed, and how early entitlement funding would work between settings

### 3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

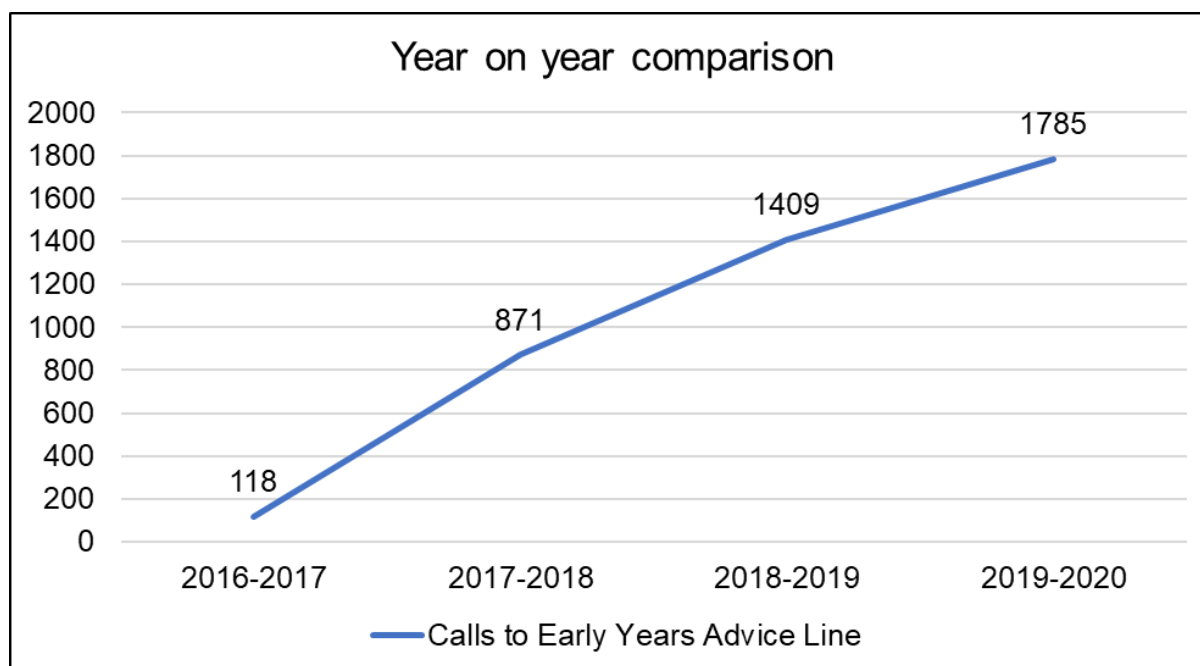
- Developed and improved the quality of existing web-based information and extended the number of topics available for providers to access including SEND, behaviour, English as an Additional Language and SEND funding
- Worked with colleagues to further develop a robust and effective transition document available for parents, early years providers and schools to ensure transparency and evidence good practice
- Updated and added more information to the NCC Schools website
- Linked with health and other colleagues to utilise data from the Early Identification Notice (EIN) to ensure all children identified with SEND are accessing their early education entitlement, if parents/carers choose to do so
- Improved the skills & knowledge of the Early Years providers to meet the needs of children with SEND, especially through the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN) Level 3 Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) training, and through the NASEN SEND reviewer training
- Delivered Virtual SENCO networks delivered via Zoom, which have been very well received. More practitioners have been able to access them in this format in response to Covid-19
- Through the introduction of a training programme enhanced and developed the knowledge, understanding and skills of Early Years SENCOs in performing their role effectively. Two cohorts have completed the training and have gained the Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE) Cache Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Coordinator in Early Years Settings

### 3.4 Quality/Workforce Development

- Continued to extend the system leaders peer support network alongside funding from the Early Years Professional Development Fund
- Supported the network of Early Years System Leaders to complete a management coaching module and established them to provide leadership support. 12 System Leaders are operating across the county
- Supported System Leaders to provided one to one support, training on specific subjects and contribute Early Years Assessment Networks. They have become involved with and are driving quality of EY's practice within areas of Child participation, and Communication & Language

- Delivered ‘Leading your Setting Successfully’ training to 30 practitioners and ‘Management Essentials, Development Programme for Childminders’ to 10 Childminders. We have also funded 16 practitioners to undertake degree level training
- Continued to provide support, advice and bespoke training from staff in the Early Years Learning Team (EYLT) and Early Years Finance Team for approximately 80 providers. Of these 28 had an Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement, Inadequate or Not Met (with actions)
- Delivered 6 ‘Thinking of Becoming a Childminder’ ‘group’ sessions in Thetford, Kings Lynn and Norwich. In addition, several people attended ‘one to one’ sessions that were held at the Norwich office. In total 32 people attended. There have been 26 new childminder registrations in the past year
- Sent out comprehensive/adapted email information packs to those thinking about becoming a Childminder to 37 people. With this came the option for a follow up ‘Zoom’ or telephone call
- Continued to conduct safeguarding audits of all registered early years provision in the private and voluntary sector, reporting outcomes to the NSCP. Total audits completed before the national lockdown at the end of March 2020 was 484, 235 group providers and 249 childminders
- Provided an all-year-round advice line for providers to contact the Early Years Learning or Finance Teams. Figure 2 shows the number of calls received as requests for assistance from childcare providers has increased year on year. There has been an increase of 27% in the volume of calls to the advice line over the past twelve months
- Continued 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

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



## 4. Childcare sufficiency - Areas for development

To ensure sufficient high-quality early years and childcare provision, NCC will:

### 4.1 Data/sufficiency

- Provide sufficiency audits for analysis by the Childcare Development Manager and Improvement & Development Workers (IDW) to follow up 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. There are 146 childcare providers engaged in formal partnerships according to the Local Agreement data
- Target childcare expansion 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 to understand differences in supply and demand at local level
- Review processes focused on encouraging take up of funded places, particularly 2 year old places, in areas where take up rates are lowest

### 4.2 Family Information

- Continue to 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 Learning Team 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, particularly to encourage take up of 2 year old places
- 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 and carers about early/home learning and childcare
- Ensure support available is clearly identifiable and promoted for children or families with SEN&D and/or where English is an additional language
- Use digital platforms to share home learning ideas and resources with families during lockdown, and films and information to help parents support their children transitioning to a new school/setting or returning to a familiar setting

### 4.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- Continue to 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 SEND
- Further develop the use of data from the Early Identification Notice (EIN), to include the sharing of data at key points with other educational/SEND teams to ensure they are fully aware and prepared to accept children with SEND

- Work with NASEN to develop a whole system approach to supporting children with SEND aged 0-5. This will be facilitated through a Department for Education (DfE) funded project which aids with strategic planning and training for EY practitioners, leading to improved identification, provision and outcomes for young children with SEND
- Support the third cohort of practitioners to complete the NCFE Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in Early Years Settings training programme. Cohort 4 will commence in January 2021

#### 4.4 Quality/workforce development

- Continue with group and individual web-based training packages offering flexible learning
- Continue to extend the System Leaders Peer Support network alongside the Early Years Professional Development Fund. More recently (Covid-19 related), System Leaders have continued to remain contactable using digital media sites and have provided '360 degree' feedback of the LA Early Year's support offer. They are soon to support digital peer support groups for Early Years leaders and practitioners across the county
- Work with Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP), to develop reflective practice groups for leaders and managers within early years and childcare settings, developing the role of System Leaders as facilitators of these groups
- Continue to allocate an Early Years Adviser (EYA) and/or IDW 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
- Offer "Thinking of becoming a childminder" briefings online on request
- Continue to support providers with safeguarding and welfare, teaching and learning issues through advice and guidance from the Early Years Learning Team
- Begin a new round of audits with all registered early years and childcare providers in the private and voluntary sector, focussing initially on settings graded Inadequate or Requires Improvement, reporting outcomes to the NSCP
- 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. These have moved to online events because of Covid-19 restrictions

#### 4.5 Sustainability

- Ensure award of sustainability and start-up funding grants reflects both identified and emerging shortfall in provision
- Implement agreed changes to the Early Years Funding Formula from April 2021
- Provide focused support and/or training for providers to develop their business and financial model
- Continue to work with providers across the early years and childcare sector to gather and understand the emerging evidence on how the childcare market is being affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and how the sector is responding to the changing situation. This will inform the Early Years Learning Team's focus in providing further support

## 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 (UC)

Universal Credit is the benefit system that will eventually replace 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

However, from November 2020, it had been expected that more people would be moved across to UC through the managed migration process until completion. In early 2020, the expected completion of the full move over to UC was put back from December 2023 to a revised completion date of September 2024 (this revised date may need to be changed again, depending on the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak).

Universal Credit is 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 week, which is up to £646.35 per month 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 the tax-free childcare scheme in 2017 which replaced the childcare voucher schemes. To qualify, parents over 25 must be in work, and each earning at least £139 a week and not more than £100,000 each per year.

If the parent is earning less than £139 a week but are under 25, or an apprentice, they may still be eligible. Currently eligibility allowances have been temporarily affected by Covid-19.

Under this system 20% of annual childcare costs are 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 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>.

Current national take up is low at 1 in 6 eligible families. Ofsted registered providers need to sign up to receive payments from parents' tax-free childcare accounts. Seventy percent of Norfolk childcare providers have signed up to receive tax free payments.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Norfolk childcare providers signed up to take tax free childcare**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Providers</b>
Breckland	72%
Broadland	74%
Great Yarmouth	66%
Kings Lynn & WN	70%
North Norfolk	69%
Norwich	60%
South Norfolk	74%
Norfolk	70%

NCC Synergy Education Live October 2020

The number of families in Norfolk using tax free childcare accounts has been doubling year on year, take up is still very low but in line with the national picture.

**Figure 4. Number of Norfolk Children with Used Tax-Free Childcare accounts**

<b>Area</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
Breckland	120	330	740
Broadland	135	385	835
Great Yarmouth	40	135	280
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	130	360	640
North Norfolk	50	180	320
Norwich	90	285	560
South Norfolk	180	565	1,080
<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>4,455</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>65,295</b>	<b>182,995</b>	<b>351,935</b>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908440/Tax\\_Free\\_Childcare\\_Statistics\\_Tables\\_June\\_2020\\_Final.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908440/Tax_Free_Childcare_Statistics_Tables_June_2020_Final.xlsx)

## 6. Population

6.1 According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2018 Mid-Year Population estimates Norfolk's population is around 903,680. This is approximately 1.6% of the population of England. The population is projected to increase by 6.7% by 2028.

**Figure 5. Projected population increase from 2018, 2028 and 2043 from ONS 2018 sub national population projections**

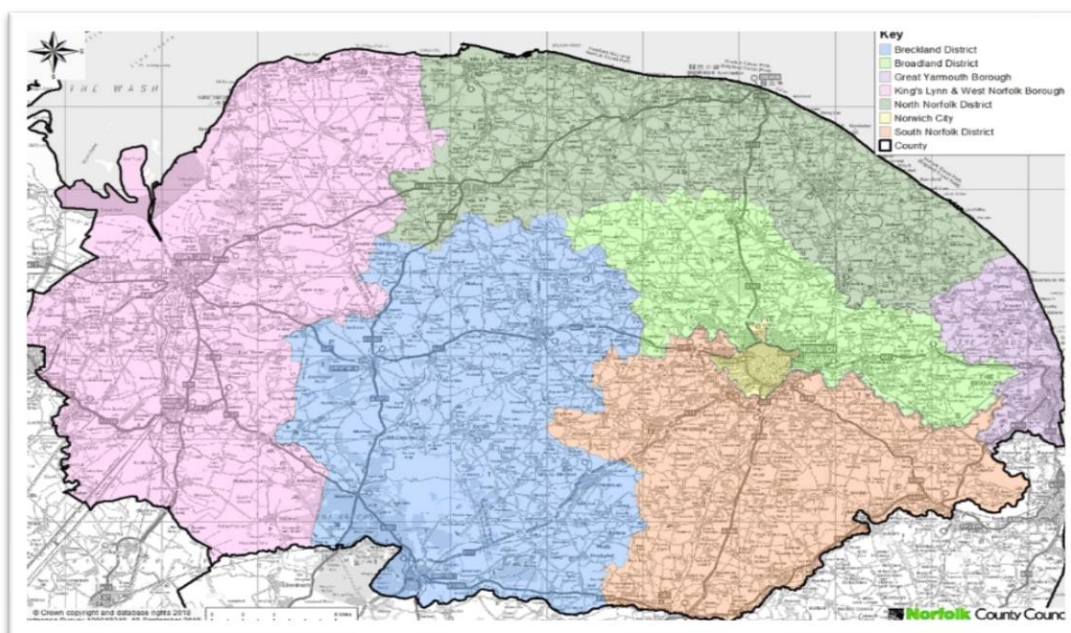
District	2018	2028	2043	Increase 2018-2028 %	Increase 2018 - 2043%
Breckland	139,329	151,254	164,432	8.56%	18.02%
Broadland	129,464	139,674	150,881	7.89%	16.54%
Great Yarmouth	99,370	102,558	106,787	3.21%	7.46%
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	151,811	155,366	160,186	2.34%	5.52%
North Norfolk	104,552	110,672	118,116	5.85%	12.97%
Norwich	141,137	146,299	152,358	3.66%	7.95%
South Norfolk	138,017	158,417	177,110	14.78%	28.32%
<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>903,680</b>	<b>964,241</b>	<b>1,029,870</b>	<b>6.70%</b>	<b>13.96%</b>

ONS sub national population projections 2018, published 28/4/2020, figures may not equal due to rounding

6.2 From 1981-2014, Norfolk's population increased by an average of 0.68% per annum. [Population.City](#)

6.3 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, Breckland and Broadland are projected to be the fastest growing districts in the county.

**Figure 6: Map of Norfolk districts**



Norfolk County Council CS E-Publishing Team July 2019



6.4 The table in Figure 7 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 7 - Table of population of children age 0 - 14 mid 2019 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	1,295	1,105	996	1,448	669	1,458	1,291	<b>8,262</b>
1	1,424	1,110	1,046	1,487	784	1,511	1,366	<b>8,728</b>
2	1,496	1,233	1,104	1,625	795	1,566	1,493	<b>9,312</b>
3	1,553	1,289	1,118	1,669	829	1,559	1,562	<b>9,579</b>
4	1,563	1,272	1,116	1,779	886	1,476	1,567	<b>9,659</b>
5	1,554	1,274	1,091	1,711	920	1,582	1,531	<b>9,663</b>
6	1,659	1,404	1,115	1,813	866	1,621	1,688	<b>10,166</b>
7	1,594	1,482	1,148	1,804	992	1,687	1,657	<b>10,364</b>
8	1,630	1,463	1,168	1,820	997	1,529	1,693	<b>10,300</b>
9	1,610	1,378	1,265	1,722	1,018	1,494	1,752	<b>10,239</b>
10	1,572	1,474	1,092	1,668	968	1,514	1,725	<b>10,013</b>
11	1,628	1,437	1,191	1,774	980	1,538	1,691	<b>10,239</b>
12	1,531	1,502	1,151	1,666	956	1,405	1,680	<b>9,891</b>
13	1,467	1,330	1,064	1,624	963	1,350	1,685	<b>9,483</b>
14	1,429	1,421	1,055	1,497	941	1,285	1,562	<b>9,190</b>
CWD 15-18	85	92	60	149	56	99	88	<b>629</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23,090</b>	<b>20,266</b>	<b>16,780</b>	<b>25,256</b>	<b>13,620</b>	<b>22,674</b>	<b>24,031</b>	<b>145,717</b>

Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid 2019-ONS Revised 28/06/2018, (CWD updated 02/11/2020)

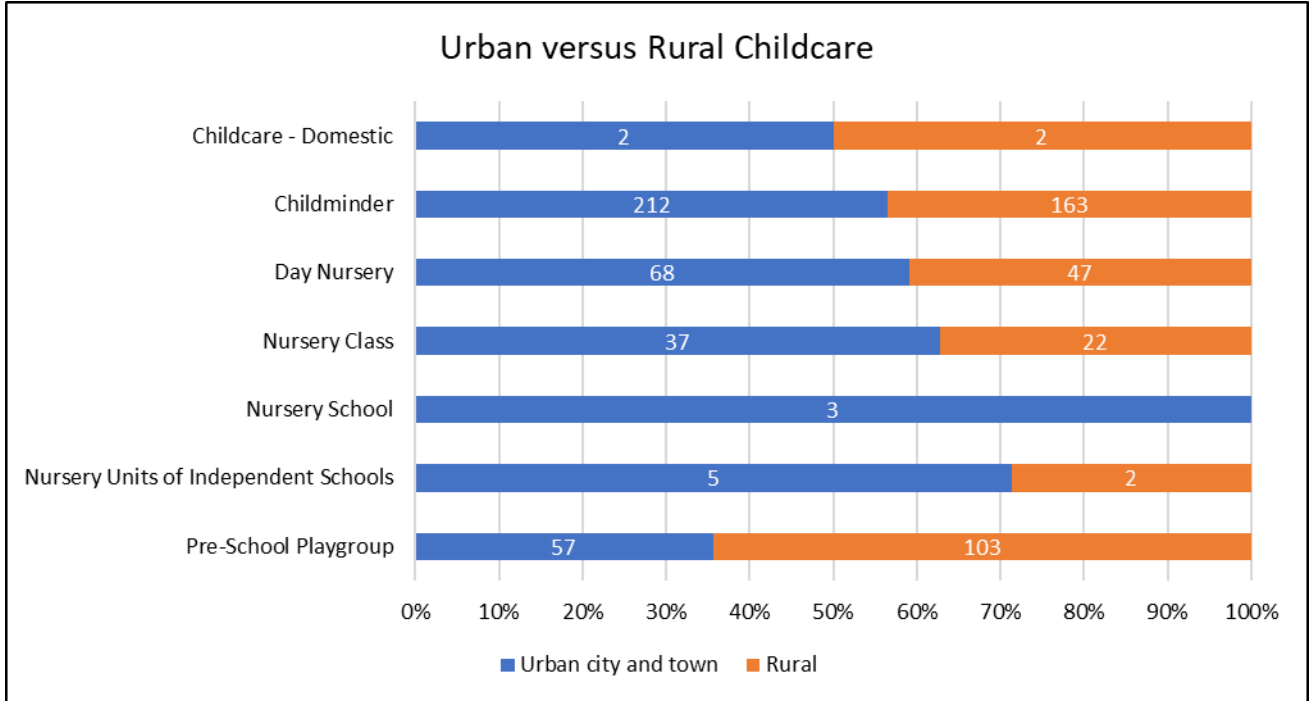
6.5 There are an estimated 45,540 children aged from birth to four years, down 1,609 from the mid 2017 estimate.

6.6 There are estimated to be 38,803 children in Norfolk age 11 – 14, up 2,873 from the mid 2017 estimate and 171,656 children aged 0-17, up 1,631 from the mid 2017 estimate.

6.7 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 the population living in urban areas and none of Norfolk's districts is wholly rural. (Norfolk Story, 2019)

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

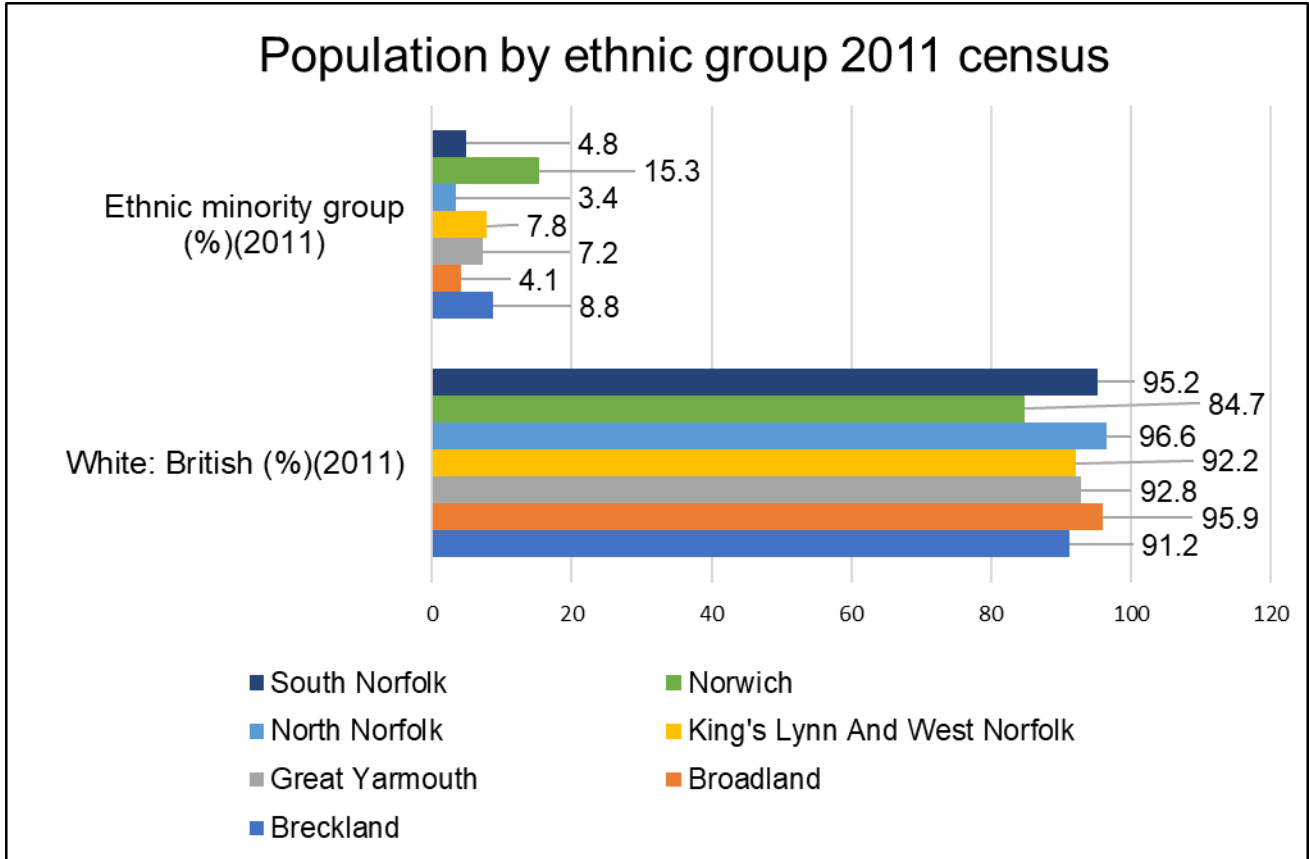
**Figure 8. Comparison of numbers of urban and rural childcare provision**



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

**Figure 9. Population by ethnic group 2011**

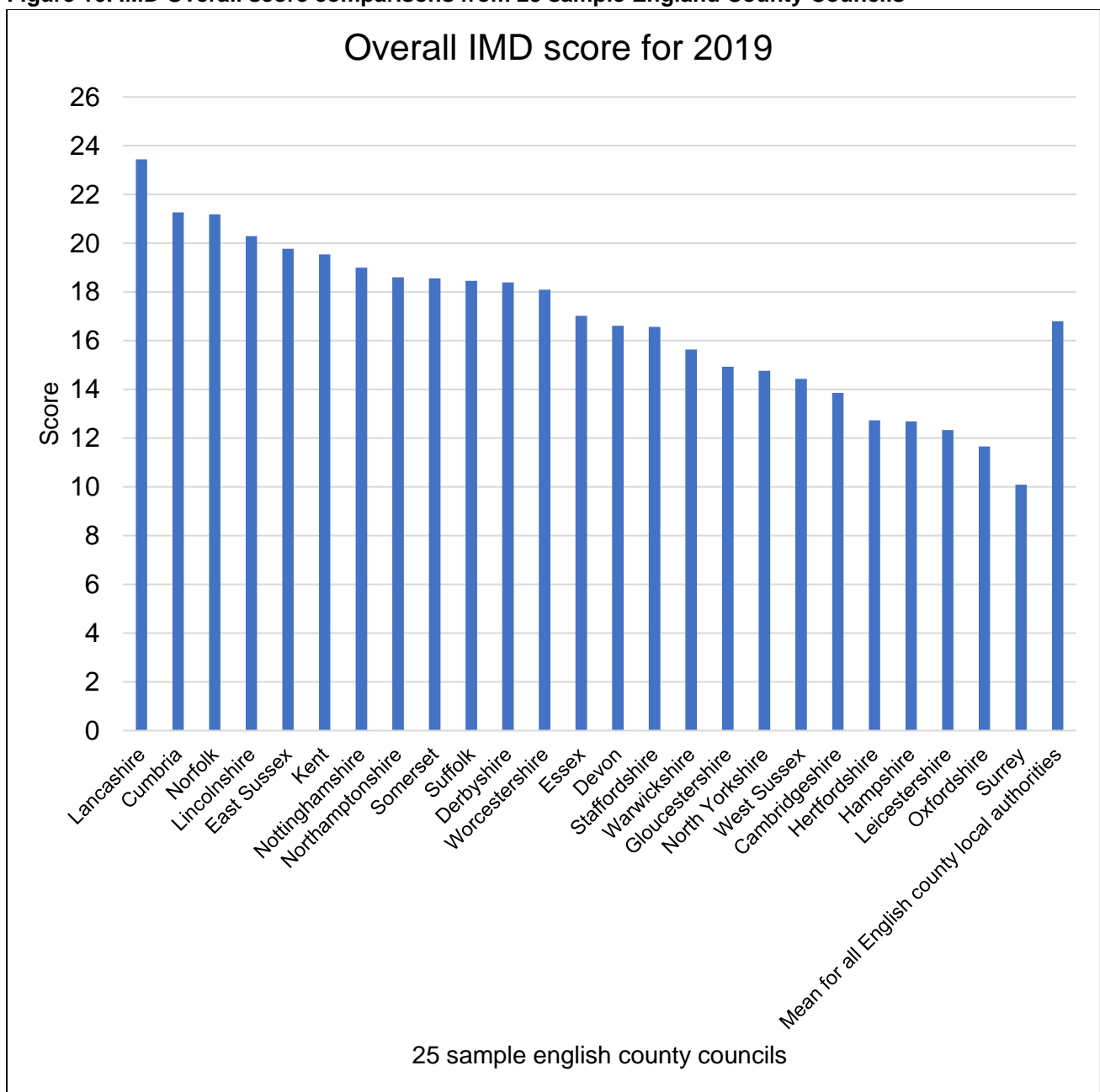


NCC Norfolk Insight, 2011 Census

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 English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 show that Norfolk has experienced a slight increase in relative deprivation compared with 2015, moving to third from fourth within the 25 sample authorities shown in Figure 10. For Norfolk the overall score in 2015 was 21.158 and has risen to 21.183. The mean overall score for all English county councils is 16.796.

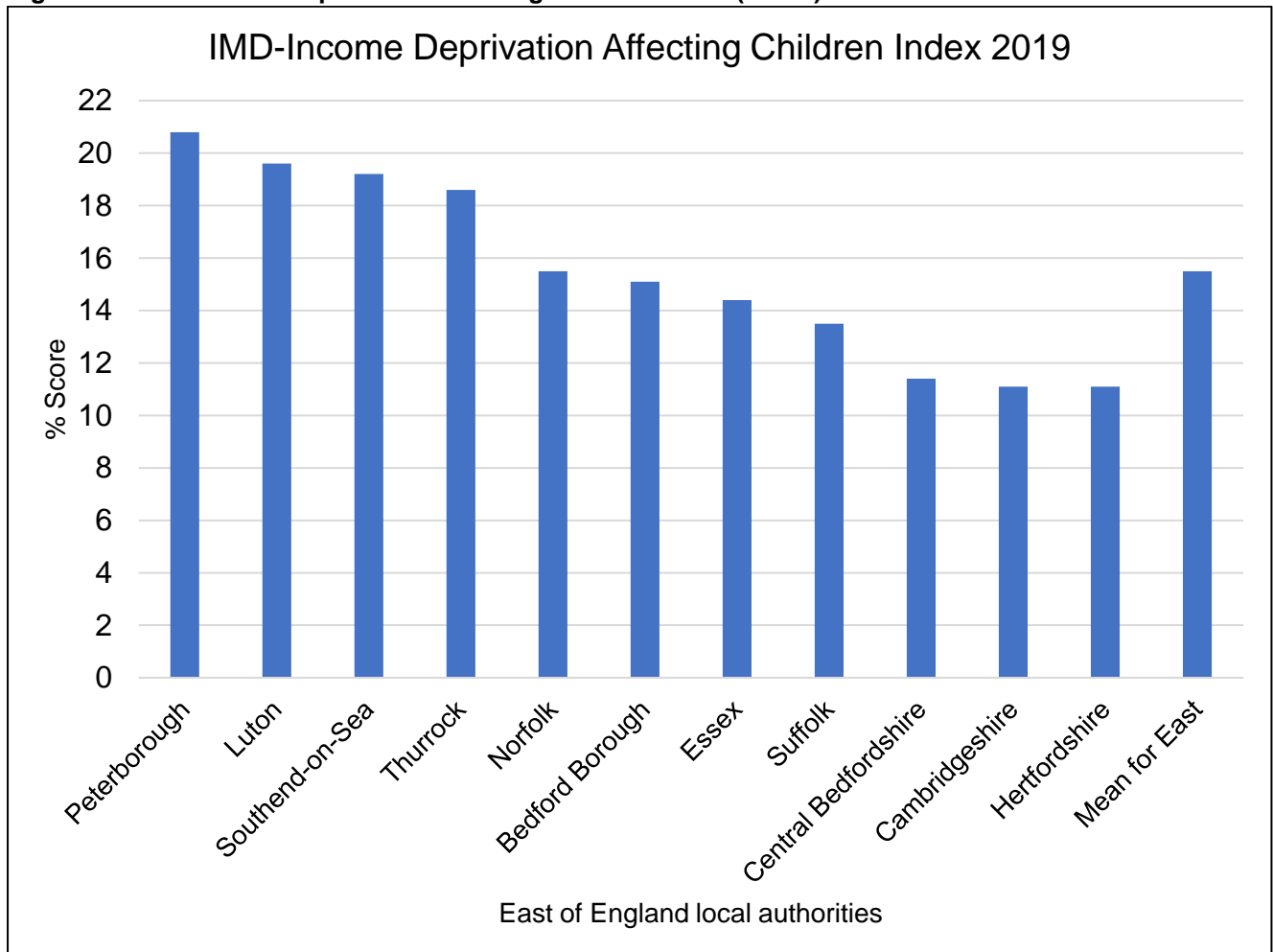
**Figure 10. IMD Overall score comparisons from 25 sample England County Councils**



Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation 17/09/2020

6.13 The IMD-Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) for 2019 shows Norfolk with a percentage score of 15.5, the same as the mean for the eastern local authorities.

Figure 11. IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) for 2019



Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation 17/09/2020

6.14 The percentage score of 15.5% represents a drop of 2.2 points from 2015 indicating that Norfolk has less children living in income deprivation than 4 years ago. This trend continues across the east of England with the mean figure dropping from 25.1% in 2015 to 15.5% in 2019.

6.15 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.

6.16 The labour market profile comparison between Norfolk, East of England and Great Britain shows Norfolk is performing better than the region and nationally for being economically active.

6.17 Norfolk has a higher percentage of unemployed people than both the regional and national average.

**Figure 12. Employment – April 2019 to March 2020**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Economically Active</b>	<b>In employment</b>	<b>Employees</b>	<b>Self-employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>
Norfolk	81.3%	78.0%	67.9%	9.9%	4.0%
East of England	80.5%	77.9%	66.5%	11.2%	3.3%
Great Britain	79.1%	76.2%	64.9%	11.1%	4.0%

NOMIS 17/09/2020

## 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 2020 Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP). New housing will attract the need for childcare provision that may be above the supply level of existing local provision.

**Figure 13. Forecast number of children aged 3 and 4 living in new housing**

District	Permitted and commenced dwellings	Completed dwellings	Expected dwellings	Number of additional 3-4 year olds
Breckland	13,533	753	12,780	1,240
Broadland	10,569	466	10,103	980
Great Yarmouth	2,130	506	1,624	158
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	2,876	546	2,330	227
North Norfolk	1,219	744	475	73
Norwich	1,875	596	1,279	125
South Norfolk	6,349	2,410	3,939	383
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,551</b>	<b>6,021</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>3,186</b>

NCC LGIP 2019-20 and District Council Building Progress Surveys Summer 2020

- 7.2 The new housing is predominantly centred 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 and are available on request: [Early Years Advice Line](#)

## 8. Sufficiency of childcare places for 0-5 year olds

8.1 As of September 2020 Norfolk has 849 childcare providers across the county.

Figure 14. Childcare provision in Norfolk

Childcare provider type	Sep 17	Dec 18	Jun 19	Sep 20	Diff. Sep 17 to Dec 18	Diff. Dec 18 to Jun 19	Diff. Jun 19 to Sep 20
Day Nursery	137	135	131	131	-2	-4	0
Pre-school Playgroup	180	166	155	144	-14	-9	-11
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	534	486	465	444	-48	-21	-21
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	12	12	11	9	0	-1	-2
School Run (Nursery School, Nursery Class, Day Nursery, Pre-school)	110	117	115	121	+7	-2	+6
<b>Total</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>-37</b>	<b>-28</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live September 2020

- 8.2 The number of early years and childcare provider types in the county continues to reduce. In the 2019 CSA the numbers of pre-schools, childminders, nursery classes, nursery schools and day nurseries were 877, this has dropped 3.2% to 849 over the 12 month period to August 2020.
- 8.3 The biggest majority of closures were from childminders but the rate of closures across the sector are slowing down. The increase in school run childcare is largely due to schools taking over the running of committee run childcare located on the school site.
- 8.4 Not all childcare providers offer the funded early education entitlement. Figure 15 shows the number of childcare providers offering free early education entitlement in both the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector and those run by schools, by District Council area.

**Figure 15. Number of childcare providers offering funded early education entitlement places by district council, autumn 2020**

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery (School run)	Total
Breckland	20	26	50	2	15	113
Broadland	16	25	63	1	14	119
Great Yarmouth	14	6	22	0	18	60
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	26	26	56	1	20	129
North Norfolk	14	14	20	1	19	68
Norwich	17	14	20	3	19	73
South Norfolk	24	33	51	0	13	121
<b>Norfolk Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>683</b>

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- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 Looking at last year, Figures 16 and 17 show the number of places being offered for early education and childcare for 3-4's and eligible 2 year olds respectively for autumn 2019.



**Figure 16. Number of funded places available for 3 & 4 year olds by District (autumn 2019)**

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery (School run)	Total
Breckland	1,104	920	195	38	597	<b>2,854</b>
Broadland	726	974	257	45	553	<b>2,555</b>
Great Yarmouth	810	314	128	0	642	<b>1,894</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,267	861	216	48	712	<b>3,104</b>
North Norfolk	607	466	104	40	616	<b>1,833</b>
Norwich	807	570	108	228	997	<b>2,710</b>
South Norfolk	992	1,011	244	0	523	<b>2,770</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,313</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>17,720</b>

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**Figure 17. Number of funded places available for 2 year olds by District (autumn 2019)**

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery (School run)	Total
Breckland	370	321	49	0	36	<b>776</b>
Broadland	296	304	21	0	60	<b>681</b>
Great Yarmouth	410	142	27	0	140	<b>719</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	458	374	48	12	80	<b>972</b>
North Norfolk	231	180	19	0	112	<b>542</b>
Norwich	321	216	28	0	198	<b>763</b>
South Norfolk	343	444	56	0	33	<b>876</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>5,329</b>

- 8.7 94 childcare providers did not reopen at the start of the autumn term because of Covid-19. These providers may or may not reopen in the long run but, at the time of writing, have not closed permanently by cancelling their registrations with Ofsted.
- 8.8 Figure 18 and 19 show the number of places for 3-4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds for funded early years education and childcare available at the start of the autumn 2020 term. A deduction has been made taking into account the number of funded early education places offered by childcare providers who have not reopened at the start of the autumn 2020 term.

**Figure 18. Number of funded places available for 3 & 4 year olds by District (autumn 2020)**

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery (School run)	Total
Breckland	1,056	852	153	24	597	<b>2,682</b>
Broadland	702	974	245	45	553	<b>2,519</b>
Gt Yarmouth	774	296	124	0	642	<b>1,836</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,183	777	194	48	712	<b>2,914</b>
North Norfolk	607	434	96	40	488	<b>1,665</b>
Norwich	807	496	83	228	949	<b>2,563</b>
South Norfolk	952	967	234	0	501	<b>2,654</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,081</b>	<b>4,796</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>16,833</b>

Figure 19. Number of funded places available for 2 year olds by District (autumn 2020)

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery (School run)	Total
Breckland	358	293	36	0	36	<b>723</b>
Broadland	284	304	19	0	60	<b>667</b>
Gt Yarmouth	386	134	26	0	140	<b>686</b>
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	390	316	432	12	80	<b>840</b>
North Norfolk	231	172	17	0	77	<b>497</b>
Norwich	321	204	24	0	174	<b>723</b>
South Norfolk	327	432	53	0	25	<b>837</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>4,973</b>

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- 8.9 By comparison, there has been a reduction in the number of 3-4 year old funded places by 877 (5.0%) and a reduction of 2 year old funded places by 356 (6.7%).
- 8.10 Figure 20 shows the types of childcare providers who chose not to reopen at the start of the autumn 2020 term. These providers were not permanently closed and are still on the Ofsted register. Not all these providers offer funded early education childcare places but the vast majority of those affected by the pandemic are from the PVI sector and more specifically, childminders (77% of the PVI sector total).

Figure 20. Childcare providers impacted by Covid-19 remaining closed (not permanently)

Childcare provider type	PVI sector	School Run sector
Childcare - Domestic	2	0
Childminder	67	0
Day Nursery	7	1
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	1	0
Pre-school Playgroup	10	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7</b>

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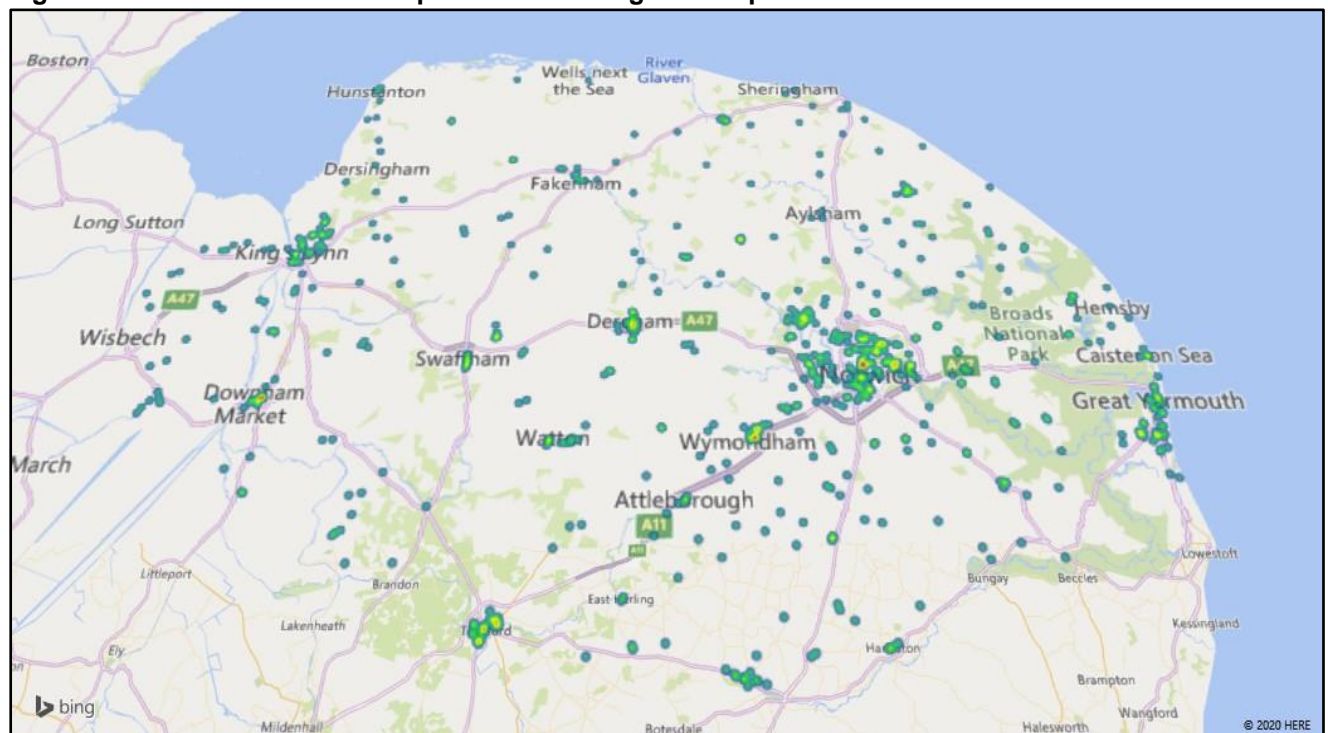
8.11 Figure 21 shows the number of childcare providers not reopening for the autumn 2020 term, by district. It is anticipated that this figure will fluctuate in line with the measures taken nationally to reduce the transmission rates of the coronavirus.

**Figure 21. Childcare providers not reopening during autumn 2020 by District**

District	Number
Breckland	18
Broadland	15
Gt Yarmouth	5
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	18
North Norfolk	11
Norwich	13
South Norfolk	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

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**Figure 22. Location of childcare providers offering funded places**



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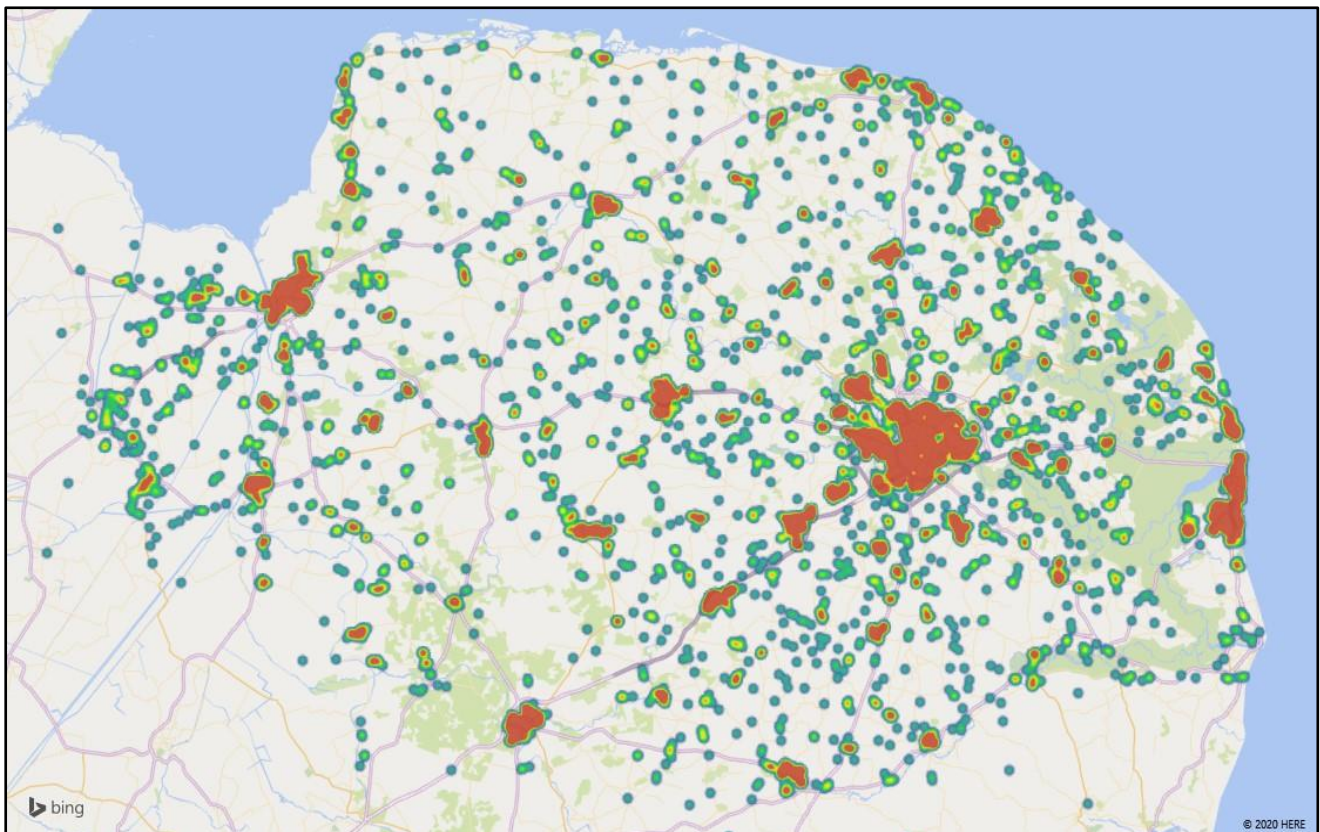
8.12 DfE statistics indicate take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds has dropped by 4 percentage points over the last 2 years but remains higher than the national average as shown in Figure 23 below.

**Figure 23. Take up for universal 15 hour funded places for 3 & 4 year olds 2018- 2020**

	Norfolk			England		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Number of 3 and 4 year olds	19,066	18,315	18,069	1,284,632	1,277,137	1,271,544
ONS population estimate for 3 and 4 year olds.	19,193	19,162	19,203	1,367,481	1,368,094	1,369,923
Per cent of 3 and 4 year old children benefiting	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/education-provision-children-under-5> 29/07/2020

**Figure 24. Location by postcode of funded 3 & 4 year olds – attending spring 2020**



NCC Attendance report for spring claim period 2020

8.13 Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take up is significantly 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.

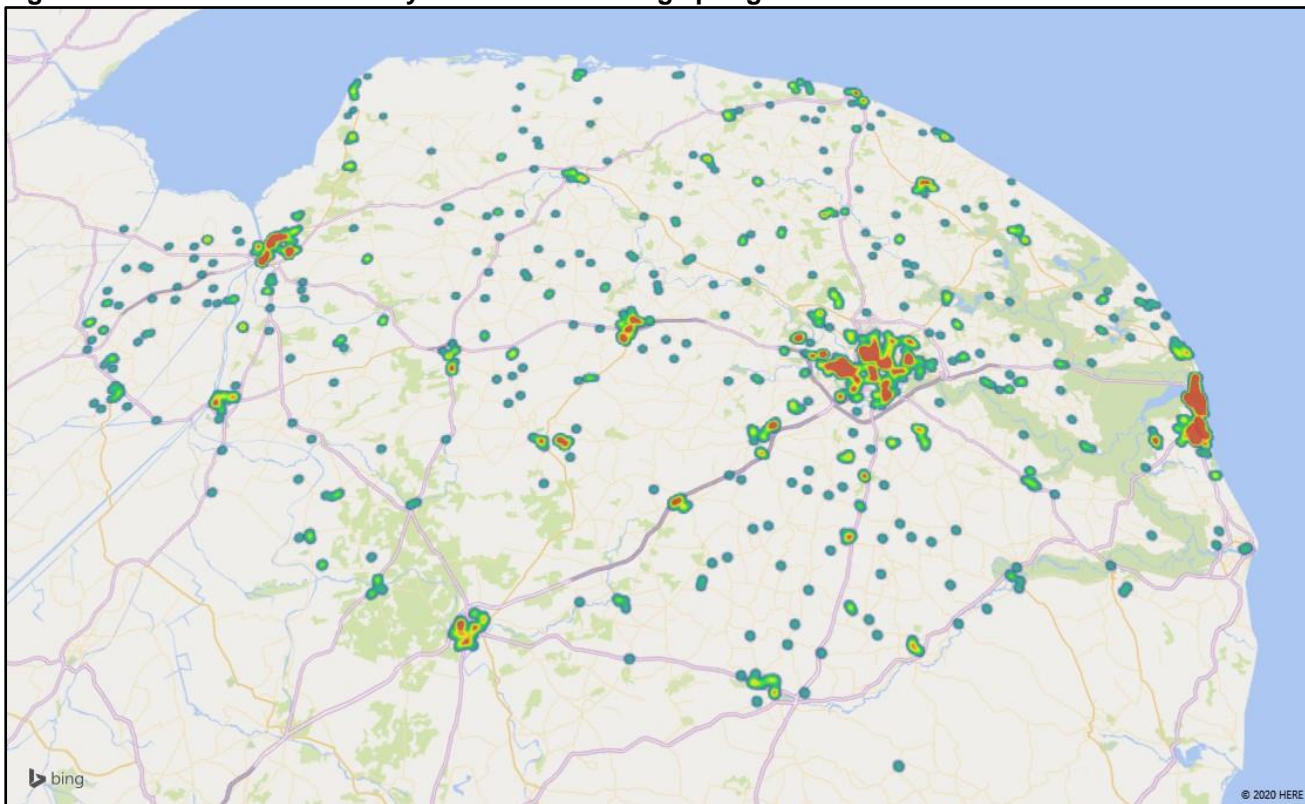
8.14 Figure 25 shows DfE statistics for 2 year old take up, indicating take up for Norfolk has dropped below the national average.

**Figure 25. Take up for 15 hour funded places for 2YOs 2018-2020**

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Norfolk</b>	DWP population estimate for 2 year olds.	2,675	2,792	2,596
	Number of 2 year olds	2,172	1,871	1,649
	Per cent of 2 year old children benefiting	<b>81%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<hr/>				
<b>England</b>	DWP population estimate for 2 year olds.	215,879	219,316	207,392
	Number of 2 year olds	154,962	148,751	143,439
	Per cent of 2 year old children benefiting	<b>72%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>69%</b>

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/education-provision-children-under-5> 29/07/2020

**Figure 26. Location of funded 2 year olds – attending spring 2020**



NCC Attendance report for spring claim period 2020

**Figure 28. Average charge per hour for early years childcare by type and district**

District	Childminders and childcare -domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)
Breckland	£3.89	£4.64	£3.89
Broadland	£4.25	£5.14	£4.24
Great Yarmouth	£3.95	£4.25	£3.90
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£4.07	£4.74	£4.07
North Norfolk	£4.06	£5.01	£3.87
Norwich	£4.64	£4.96	£4.60
South Norfolk	£4.27	£5.11	£4.14
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£4.16</b>	<b>£4.84</b>	<b>£4.10</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live, September 2020

- 8.15 Childcare for younger children is often the most expensive due to factors such as staff/child ratios. 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.
- 8.16 The average costs per hour in Figure 28 have been compared to figures for September 2016 in Figure 29 below, showing the percentage increase over 4 years.

**Figure 29. Percentage price increase per hour across childcare types**

	Childminders & childcare-domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school play groups (sessional)
Average cost per hour Sept. 2016	£3.93	£4.45	£3.55
Average cost per hour July 2019	£4.09	£4.72	£3.89
Average cost per hour Sept. 2020	£4.16	£4.84	£4.10
<b>Average % price increase 2016-20</b>	<b>5.85%</b>	<b>8.76%</b>	<b>15.49%</b>

NCC Synergy Education Live September 2020

- 8.17 Figure 30 shows the average UK inflation rate for the last 6 years indicate childcare prices have increased above the rate of inflation.

**Figure 30. 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>
Average inflation rate May 2020	<b>0.6%</b>

Update June 2020 <https://www.rateinflation.com/inflation-rate/uk-historical-inflation-rate>

## 9. Demand for childcare

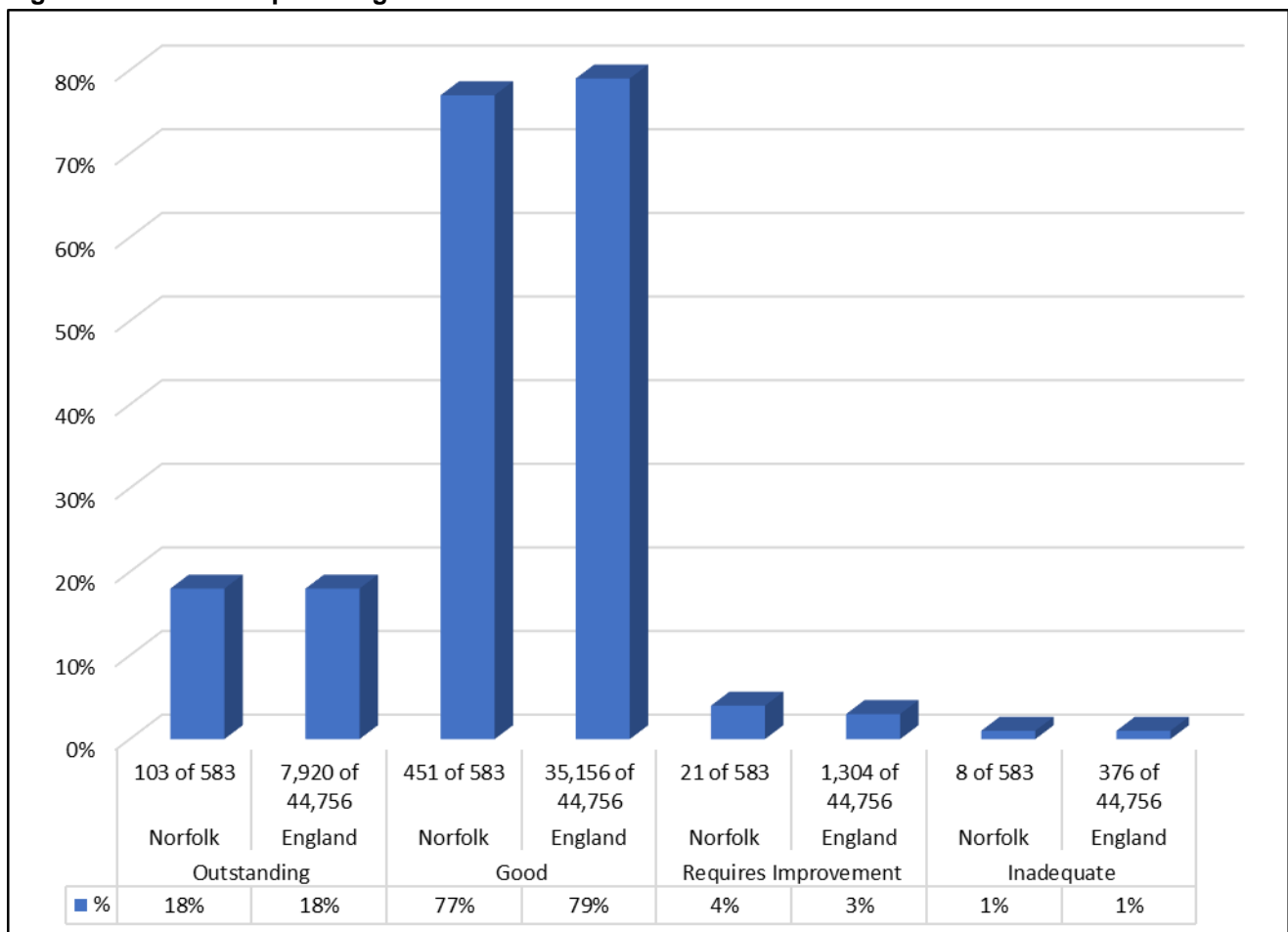
- 9.1 Demand for childcare is difficult to quantify. Local Authorities are reliant on measuring demand through indicators such as the number and types of enquiries to the Family Information Service, data on take up, feedback from providers and through complaints. This year demand has been hugely affected by the global pandemic.
- 9.2 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 Early Years Learning Team.
- 9.3 For the period November 2019 – October 2020, Family Information responded to 685 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 (59%).
- 9.4 Examples of handing-off from CSC to Family Information during Covid-19;
- Parent is a key worker in the prison service, the child's nursery is closed and the parent needs help in finding alternative provision
  - Parent is a key worker normally using government-funded childcare in term time only and now needs to work through the holidays - is there any funding left to cover the holiday period?
  - One parent is a key worker the other parent is working from home, parent was refused childcare on the grounds that one parent is at home to look after the child
- 9.5 Most people are now accessing information about childcare online with most enquiries being received through email and Facebook. The total Facebook following has grown 7% to 7,705 as of October 2020. Family Information staff use social media to promote tax credits and to provide information relating to financial assistance for childcare.
- 9.6 Family Information continue to develop innovative ways of communicating with parents to ensure up to date information is sent out to assist them to make informed choices regarding their childcare solutions and to stimulate demand for childcare.
- 9.7 The fluctuations in demand in 2, 3 and 4 year old childcare and in school age childcare due to Covid-19 make it impossible to predict how the local childcare market will look in the next 6 months. Changes are expected to continue for some time and the risks to the sustainability of the childcare market are ongoing.
- 9.8 The economic impact on employment levels could mean more families become eligible for 2 year old funded childcare, which is allocated to the 40% most disadvantaged children, if they are claiming Universal credit.
- 9.9 The considerable amount of new housing development in Norfolk could also increase demand for childcare.



## 10. Quality

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 Historically the Ofsted inspection cycle has been of 4 years duration. However, Ofsted have announced changes to their Early Years inspection arrangements. Under the new arrangements Ofsted will inspect all early years providers during a 6 year window.
- 10.3 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 has declined since 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 and is now slightly lower than the national average.

**Figure 31. Ofsted inspection grades to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

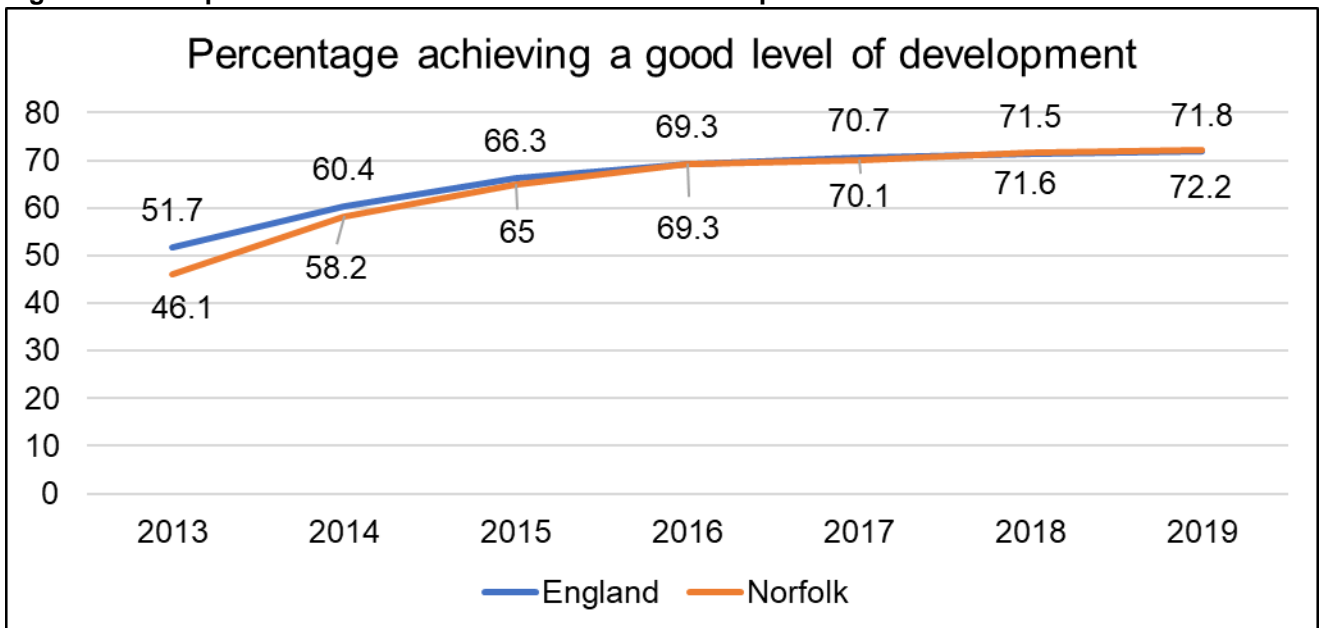


<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2020>

- 10.4 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.

- 10.5 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 Early Years Learning Team most childminders and out of school providers achieve good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection.
- 10.6 In 2018-19, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the (EYFS) was 72.2%, an increase of 0.6% from the previous year continuing an improving trend.

**Figure 32. Comparison of children's results at the EYFSP up to 2018-19**



NCC Education Achievement Service Annual Standards Report 2019

- 10.7 Figures for 2019-20 are not available. Due to the impact of Covid-19 national lockdown conditions EYFS assessments were subsequently cancelled.
- 10.8 Up to 2018-19 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%.
- 10.9 NCC has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the Early Years Learning Team 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.
- 10.10 Following training all evaluation forms are reviewed by the training team to assess the impact of the training received and support planning. Priority is given to providers who have received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade to

improve practice.

- 10.11 Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a national issue. NCC provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce. From September 2019 to the end of August 2020 there were 255 jobs advertised by childcare providers. This number is much less than a usual year having been affected by Covid-19.
- 10.12 The Early Years Learning Team has been developing a Peer Support Network, which is part of the approach to enable a 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. 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.

## 11. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- 11.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with SEND. 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.
- 11.2 All childcare settings are required to comply with the SEND Code of Practice and with the requirements of the 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).
- 11.3 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. NCC offers providers subsidised training, specialist equipment and access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.
- 11.4 Information on childcare is available to all parents online. Additional information is available to parents of children with SEND via the Norfolk SEN Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents to gain access to the free funded early years entitlement.
- 11.5 Since April 2017 there is a statutory duty for all LAs 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 funded early years entitlement with low level or emerging SEN. Although there is not a statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2-year-old Early Education, NCC does make provision for them.

**Figure 33. Number of children and childcare providers benefitting from SEN Inclusion Fund**

Term	Number of children	% increase on last year	Number of providers	% increase on last year
Autumn 2019	508	46.4%	128	30.0%
Spring 2020	658	31.3%	147	26.7%
Summer 2020	658*		147*	

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\*Figures based on spring 2020 due to childcare funding response to Covid-19

- 11.6 Comparing Figure 33 numbers with last year’s numbers there is a significant increase in take up in both children and childcare providers benefitting from this funding.
- 11.7 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 (EHCP). 75 children were in receipt of this funding during the summer term 2020.
- 11.8 Requests for additional funding for 2year olds can be made if a child has an identified need that is “additional to and different from”. Figure 34 shows the summer

2020 number of 72 is quite low in comparison to the previous 2 terms. The reason for the lower number of applications is the reduction in eligible 2 year olds attending formal childcare during the pandemic.

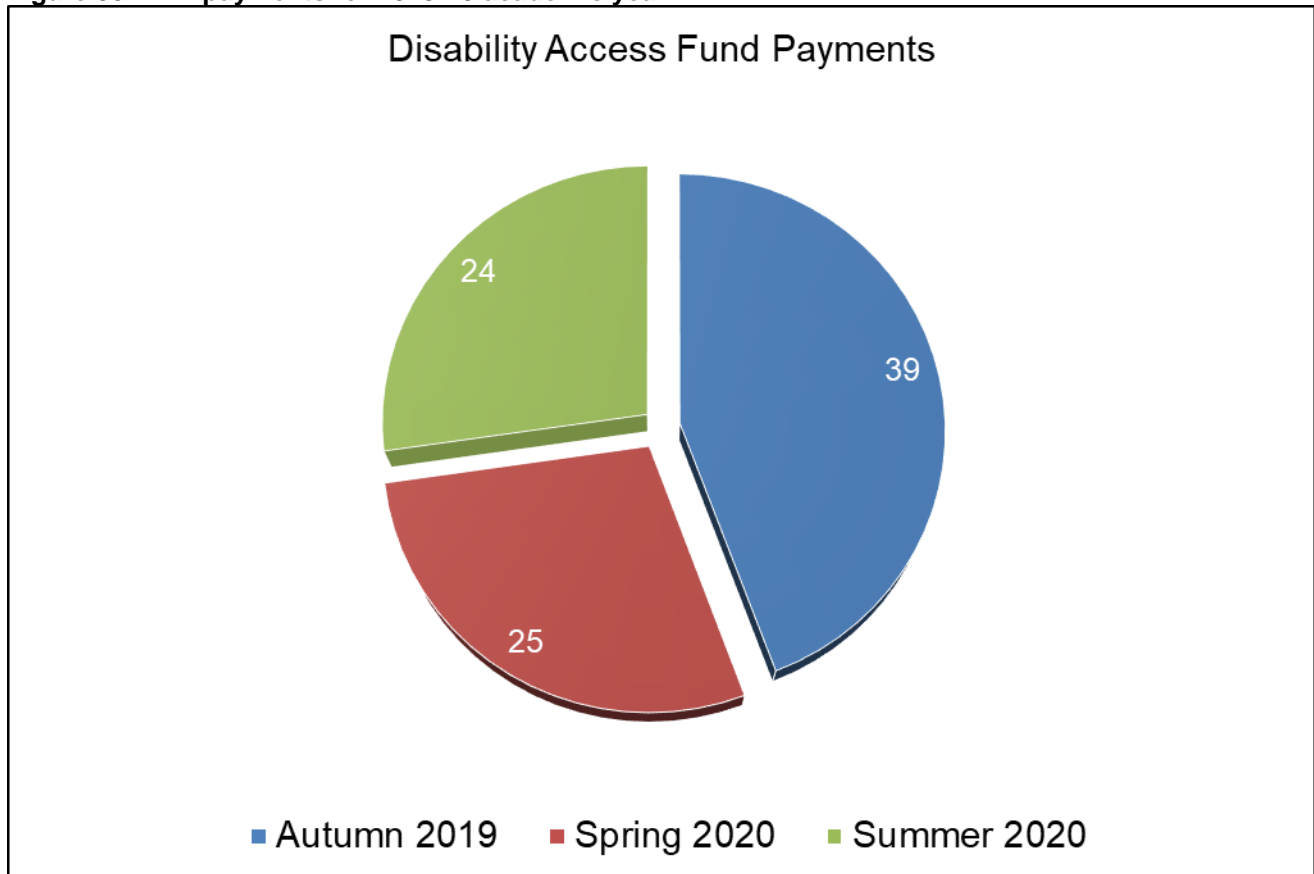
**Figure 34. Number of awards given to assist SEN 2 year olds**

Term	Number of awards
Autumn 2019	108
Spring 2020	118
Summer 2020	72

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11.9 In April 2017, the Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced for early years providers to support children with SEND. 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 2019-20 academic year Norfolk made DAF payment for 88 children, significantly down from last year's figure of 197. Figure 35 shows the payments on a termly basis.

**Figure 35. DAF payments for 2019-20 academic year**



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11.10 During the spring 2020 term 12,783 three and four year olds claimed early education funding. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) payments were made for 1,953 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across Norfolk. This

represents 15.28% of the number of children claiming early years education funding. This represents a good level of take up, though down 1% from last year.

- 11.12 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>

## 12. Looked after children and previously looked after children

- 12.1 The Virtual School has a support remit which includes looked after children, previously looked after children, adopted children and those with a Special Guardianship Order, children with English as an additional language and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller children.
- 12.2 In Norfolk 160 looked after children age 0-4 were eligible for a funded early education childcare place from September 2019 to the end of August 2020. 88 children accessed their funded childcare place (55%) which is a welcome increase in take up from last year's figure of 31%. It is recognised that looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.

**Figure 36. Take up of funded early education childcare places 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>Percentage take up</b>
Autumn 2019	119	62	52%
Spring 2020	107	64	60%
Summer 2020*	110	60	55%

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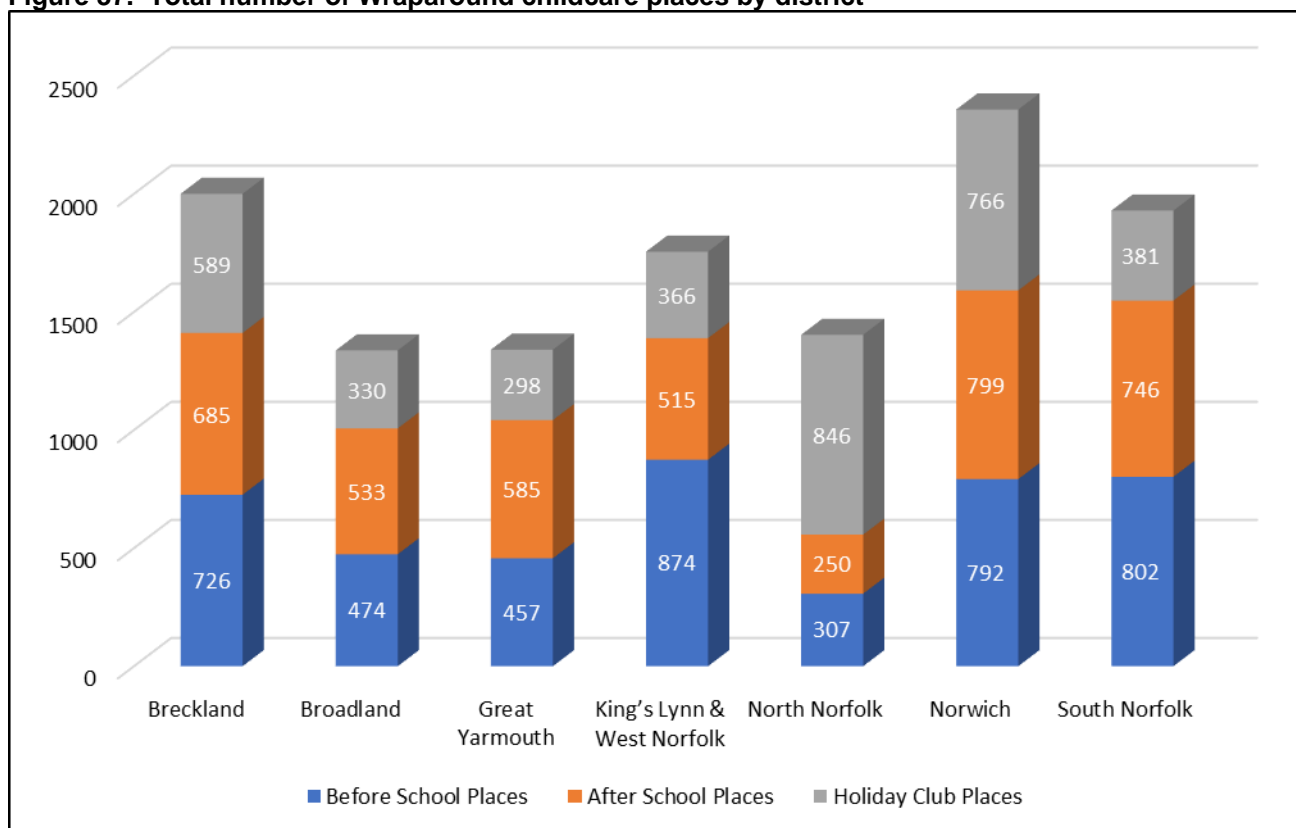
- 12.3 Norfolk's Virtual School is liaising closely with social workers and foster carers to promote the importance of accessing pre-school provision however it is acknowledged that childcare provision may not be suitable for all looked after young children.
- 12.4 From September 2018 some children in foster care have been able to be funded for the extended entitlement. In Norfolk, no children were funded under this criterion from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, compared to 10 children last year.
- 12.5 From November 2020 the Norfolk Virtual School are launching the Watch Me Play Pilot Project to build relationships with Foster Carers for children 0 to 4 years.
- 12.6 \*Please note that the summer 2020 numbers in Figure 36 relate to the number of children who may or may not have attended their childcare place due to the impact of Covid-19.

## 13. Childcare for children over 5 years old

- 13.1 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).
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 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)
- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 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.
- 13.6 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 37. Total number of Wraparound childcare places by district**



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13.7 Figure 37 shows the numbers of places reportedly available by all registered providers in Norfolk, by district. The figure also indicates the number of wraparound childcare places across Norfolk is approximately 12,121, a rise of 190 from last year. Norfolk has 100,177 children and young people aged 5 – 14 and children with disabilities aged 15 – 18 years, giving an overall figure of approximately 12 childcare places for every 100 children/young people, no change from last year's figure.

13.8 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 school run sector is high, provision run by the PVI sector is generally low.

13.9 76% of Breakfast Clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 84% of private, voluntary or independent breakfast clubs are located on school sites. School sites account for 87% of the breakfast clubs offered to parents in Norfolk.

13.10 58% of After School Clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 44% 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.

- 13.11 12% of Holiday Playschemes are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 30% of private, voluntary or independent holiday playschemes are located on school sites. School sites account for 38% of the Holiday Playschemes offered to parents in Norfolk.
- 13.12 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.
- 13.13 Demand for wraparound childcare dropped overnight when initial guidance suggested children only attend one childcare provision. This is no longer the case however the need for greater space within schools for social distancing has seen some school-based childcare having to close.
- 13.14 Figure 38 shows the current average costs of Out of School care for district and for the county.

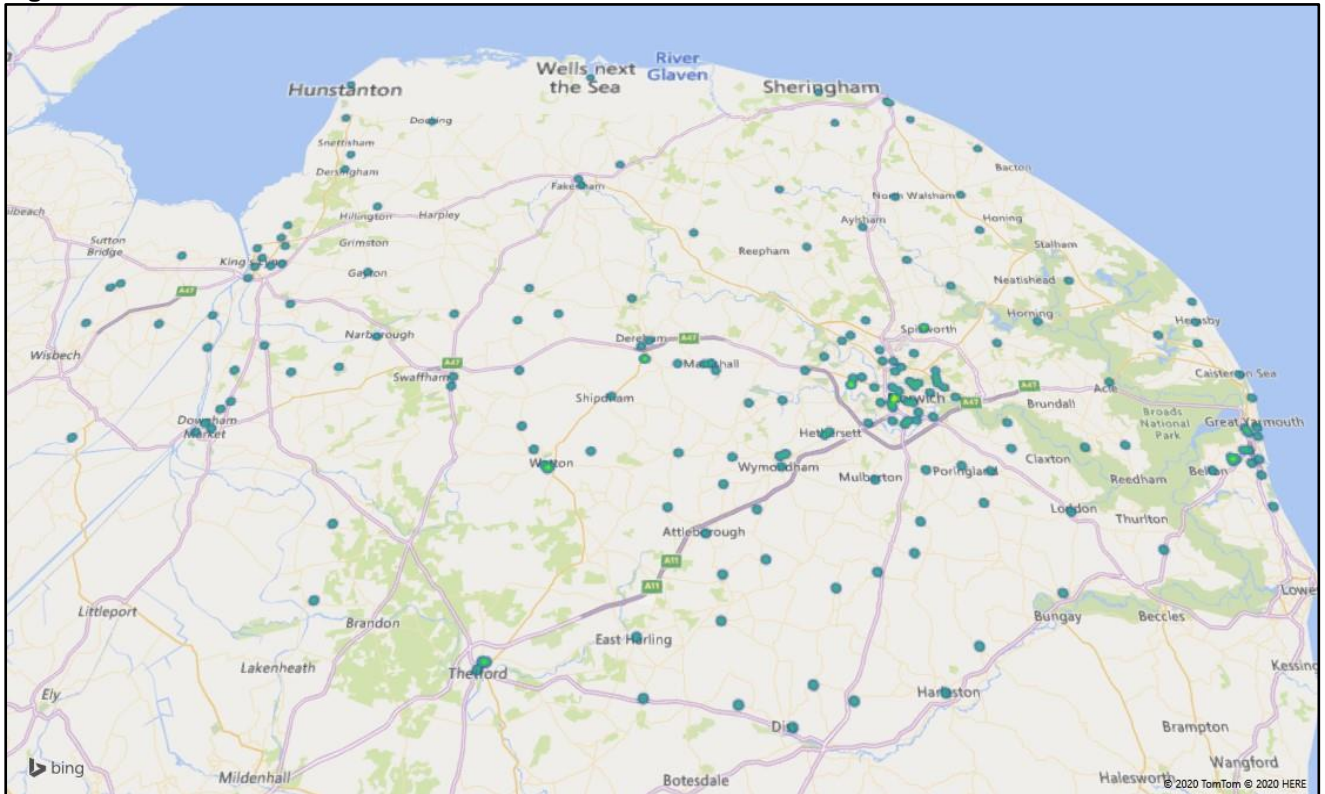
**Figure 38. Average costs for Out of School childcare by provider type and district**

<b>District</b>	<b>Breakfast Club Session (cost per session)</b>	<b>After School Session (cost per session)</b>	<b>Holiday Playscheme (cost per day)</b>
Breckland	£3.68	£8.14	£26.89
Broadland	£4.16	£7.75	£23.13
Great Yarmouth	£1.80	£6.07	£34.67
King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	£3.17	£7.33	£37.13
North Norfolk	£3.01	£7.73	£27.31
Norwich	£2.58	£8.14	£26.63
South Norfolk	£3.72	£9.83	£26.94
<b>Norfolk average</b>	<b>£3.16</b>	<b>£7.86</b>	<b>£28.96</b>

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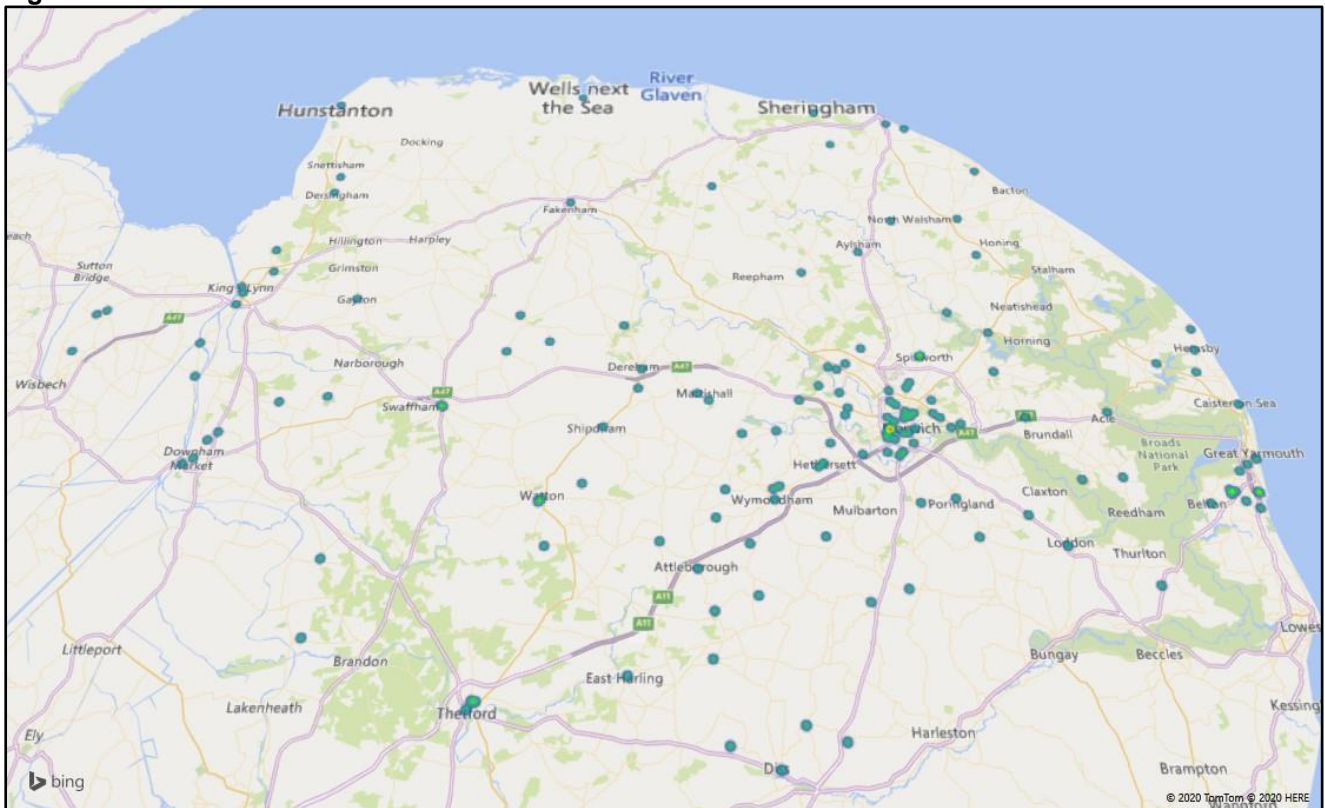
- 13.5 Figures 39 to 41 below show the locations of Breakfast Clubs, After school clubs and Holiday Playschemes respectively

**Figure 39. Location of Breakfast Clubs**



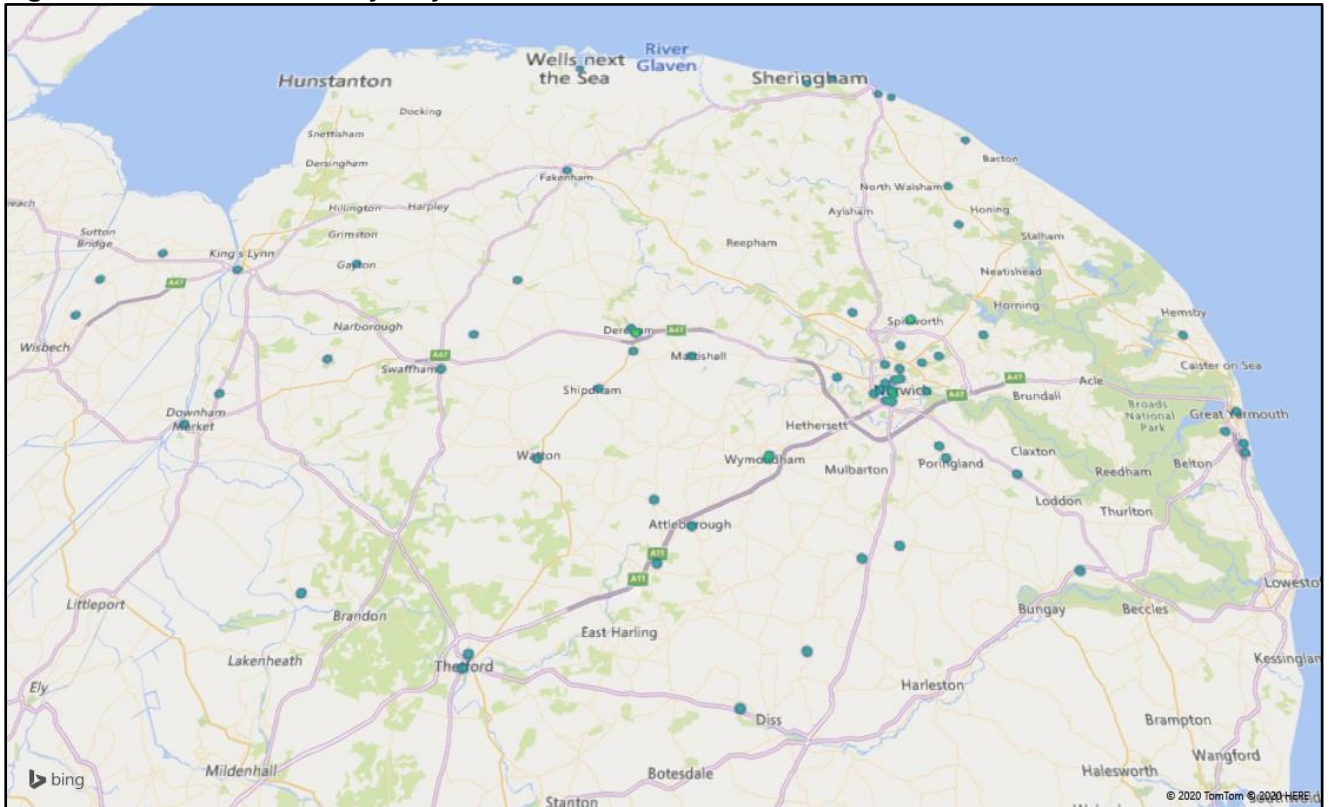
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**Figure 40. Location of After School Clubs**



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Figure 41. Location of Holiday Playschemes



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