

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2021

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a 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 duration 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: email csearlyyearsadviceline@norfolk.gov.uk

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 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
 - Ensuring access to information, support and training for 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

Funded early education	Scope of offer	Criteria
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 1,140 hours. The 1,140 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 National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week on average. (Eligibility criteria has been temporarily adapted in response to the Covid-19)

Funded early education	Scope of offer	Criteria
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

[Early education and childcare - GOV.UK](#)

- 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 2021 are summarised below. More detailed and localised analysis on key findings, demand and supply of childcare places for two, three and four year olds is available on request: email

csearlyyearsadvice@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk is growing and changing

- Over the coming ten years (2020-2030), according to baseline forecasting figures from Cambridge Econometrics, using the 2019 East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM), the Norfolk population will increase by 58,800 and 22,200 more jobs will be required for the working population plus 39,200 more homes. The rate of increase is slightly lower than last year's forecast [Cambridgeshire Insight](#)

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

- National statistics show there has been a 2 percentage point drop in the take up of childcare places by eligible 2 year old children in Norfolk from 64% in 2020 to 62% in 2021. By comparison the average for England is a slight decrease from 69% to 67.9% for the same period. Norfolk is now 5.9 percentage points below the national average
- For 3 and 4 year old take up there has been a 4.2 percentage point drop from 94% to 89.8% in Norfolk whereas the national average has dropped 5 percentage point from 93% to 88%. Norfolk is now 1.8 percentage point above the national average
- Numbers of children in any given area will fluctuate from term to term and from year to year. Up to date local sufficiency information is provided on request: email csearlyyearsadvice@norfolk.gov.uk

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

- The percentage of Early Years providers in Norfolk currently judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted is currently 95%, the same level as of 31 March 2020. Nationally this percentage increased from 96% to 97%. Ofsted paused inspection activity in March to September 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst some focussed visits took place from September 2020, full Inspections recommenced in May 2021
- The percentage of Norfolk children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is unrecorded again 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 £4.47, up £0.10. from last year's average cost of £4.37 per hour, (see Figure 24). 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. Figures for their 2021 childcare survey were not available at the time of writing [Family and Childcare Trust](#)

The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted on local childcare provision

- As of September 2021, most childcare providers in Norfolk have reopened since the pandemic lockdowns
- Providers report numbers of children attending childcare is nearly back to pre-Covid levels. Norfolk County Council continued to fund early years and education childcare places throughout the three lockdowns for all eligible children
- Many providers closed during the initial lockdown due to low demand or unavailability of staffing due to self-isolation requirements
- 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 enough childcare remains 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 2020 assessment

The 2020 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 taken the following actions:

3.1 Data/sufficiency

- 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 and building nursery class space for new schools where there is insufficient local childcare provision
- Continued to apply for education infrastructure developer contributions for new housing for the early years sector
- Continued to monitor the number of providers to ascertain potential reasons for closure (other than temporary closures due to Covid-19 reasons) and identify actions to address, including where necessary, 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 levels
- 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 Early Education Funding Rates consultation was conducted in autumn 2020 and recommendations implemented in April 2021

3.2 Family Information Service (FIS) – Key activities

- Norfolk Family Information Service (FIS) provides free, confidential and impartial advice and guidance on funded early education and childcare, home learning and related services in Norfolk, including:
 - Funded early education and childcare for 2-year-olds
 - Funded early education and childcare for all 3 and 4-year-olds
 - The 30 hours entitlement for working parents
 - Financial help available towards the costs of childcare
 - Types of early education and childcare providers, including childminders, pre-schools, nurseries and out of school childcare
- Norfolk County Council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) takes initial enquires and provides general information to families, while more complex enquiries are passed to the Family Information Team, which is part of the Early Years Learning Team
- During the period 1st June 2020 to 1st June 2021, the team responded to 242 enquiries handed over by the CSC. The enquiry data showed that most of the

customers were parents seeking information about 2-year-old funding and 30 hours funding (60%)

- For FIS related calls, the CSC achieved 70% resolution between June 2020 and June 2021. This compared with 65% in the previous audit
- In response to the challenges posed by COVID-19, FIS has successfully adapted to new ways of delivering information to parents and carers about early education and childcare. The service's digital platforms offer a more flexible way for parents and carers to engage with the team in a way which suits them. Social media helps FIS to build an online presence and can be more useful than the traditional approaches of leaflets and posters in sharing the most up to date information and at no cost to the service/NCC. Most people are now accessing information about childcare online with most enquiries being received through email and Facebook
- The total Facebook following has grown slightly to 7,795, FIS use social media to promote funded childcare and other financial support options to help pay for childcare in addition to signposting to other services.
- The family Information team received a total of 1,250 direct calls/emails in addition to handoffs from customer services during June 20 to June 21

3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- Developed and improved the quality of existing web-based information and extended the range of information 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 via Zoom, which have been very well received. More practitioners have been able to access them in this format in response to Covid-19
- Supported the review and refresh of the Local Offer webpages

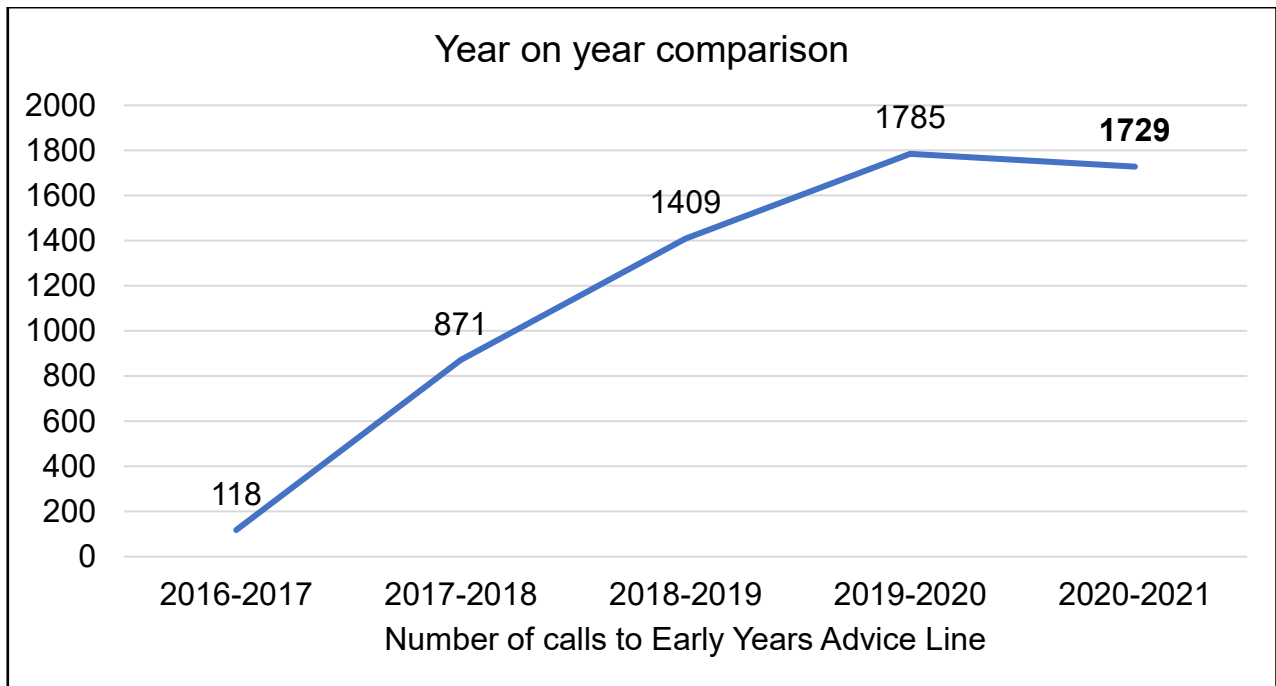
3.4 Quality/Workforce Development

- 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 provide one to one support, training on specific

subjects and contribute Early Years Assessment Networks. They have become involved with and are driving quality of EYs 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. Twenty eight of these settings were those with Ofsted judgements 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 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, of which 235 were group providers and 249 were childminders
- Provided an all-year-round advice line for providers to contact the Early Years Learning or Finance Teams. Figure 2 below shows the number of calls received as requests for assistance from childcare providers has seen a slight drop in calls received by 3% following the previous sustained increases year on year. The 2019-20 peak of 1,785 calls was caused by childcare providers seeking clarification on government guidance concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. The slight drop in calls during 2020-21 indicated more confidence in the ability for providers to find information to support them through the pandemic
- 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



NCC Early Years Learning Team, August 2021

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 56 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 where necessary
- 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 levels
- 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 Service

- Continue to work with Family Voice Norfolk and SEND partners to improve and develop approaches for reaching and supporting families that have children with SEND who are experiencing difficulties in finding early education and childcare in their area
- work to simplify the parents' customer journey, address language barriers and parental confidence about childcare
- Further develop the FIS Communications Plan around funded two-year olds and identify actions to make improvements
- Continue to raise awareness of the range of childcare options that are available to meet different parent and family needs
- Focus on messages around the benefits for children and parents/carers
- Gather feedback from parents/carers to make sure that the team's communications are clear and easy to understand
- Continue to focus efforts on raising awareness among professionals and services who are likely to have contact with eligible families and support them to promote the provision effectively
- Engage with families face to face through parent and toddler groups in areas of low take up and good sufficiency of places
- Identify routes for passing materials on to families such as through faith and community support groups and GPs
- Explore cultural issues as barriers to take up, for example, stigma attached to using formal childcare and perceived role of women as stay-at-home caregivers in some communities

- Continue to reassure and encourage eligible families to take up the offer of funded childcare
- Continue to work closely with the Customer Service Centre (CSC) to understand the queries being handed off to FIS and reduce the volume of these where possible
- Keep the CSC updated with new processes and give regular feedback where queries are passed over to FIS either unnecessarily or where more information could have been obtained to prevent this
- Continue to review our web pages and parent portal to ensure information is clear and up to date
- Have created
 - a digital pack to help providers spread the word about the 2-year-old childcare offer
 - video resources to promote on social media
 - advertising space on Instagram for 2-year-old places available in Norfolk

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 prepared to meet the needs of children with SEND
- Build on the work with NASEN to develop a whole system approach to supporting children with SEND aged 0-5. This has been 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 further cohorts of practitioners to complete the Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in Early Years Settings training programme. Cohorts 6 and 7 will commence in September 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
- Continue to carry out safeguarding 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 that the award of sustainability and development funding grants reflects both identified and emerging shortfall in provision, especially in relation to the effects Covid-19 pandemic
- 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 understand how the childcare market has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic long term and how the sector is responding. This continues to 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 enough 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.

Universal credit (UC)

If parents are working, Universal Credit can help with the costs of childcare, no matter how many hours they work. 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. [Universal Credit](#)

Tax free childcare scheme

To qualify, parents over 23 must be in work, and each earning at least £142.56 a week and not more than £100,000 each per year. If the parent is earning less than £142.56 a week but are under 23, or an apprentice, they may still be eligible.

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.

[Tax Free Childcare](#)

Ofsted registered providers need to sign up to receive payments from parents' tax-free childcare accounts. Seventy four percent of Norfolk childcare providers have signed up to receive tax free payments, up by 4 percent on last year.

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

Area	Percentage of Providers 2020	Percentage of Providers 2021	+/- %
Breckland	72%	74%	+2%
Broadland	74%	77%	+3%
Great Yarmouth	66%	73%	+7%
Kings Lynn & WN	70%	74%	+4%
North Norfolk	69%	77%	+8%
Norwich	60%	65%	+5%
South Norfolk	74%	77%	+3%
Norfolk	70%	74%	+4%

NCC Synergy Education Live July 2021

Figure 4 shows the number of families in Norfolk using tax free childcare accounts has been increasing 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

Area	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Breckland	120	330	740	885
Broadland	135	385	835	955
Great Yarmouth	40	135	280	285
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	130	360	640	705
North Norfolk	50	180	320	350
Norwich	90	285	560	700
South Norfolk	180	565	1,080	1,240
Norfolk	750	2,240	4,455	5,120
England	65,295	182,995	351,935	409,100

[Used Tax-Free Childcare accounts](#)

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.

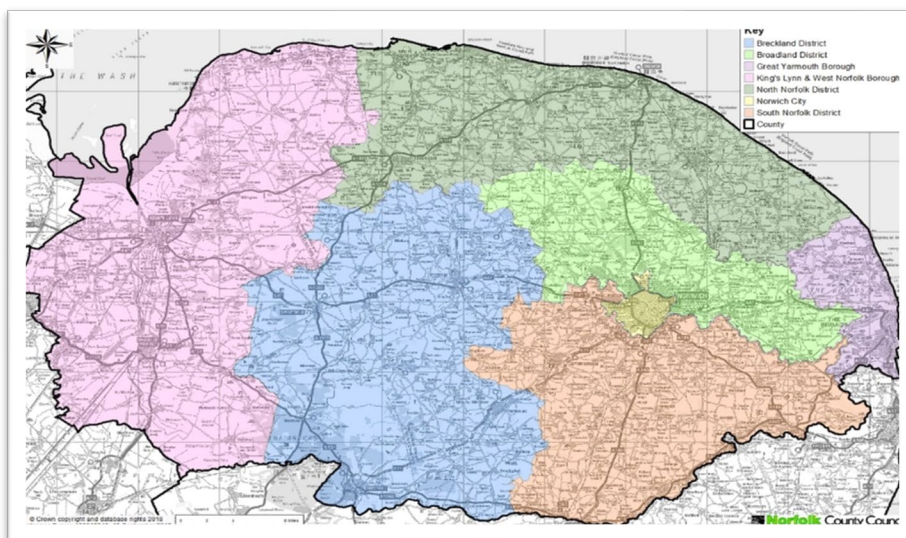
Figure 5. Projected population increase from 2018, 2028 and 2043 from ONS 2018 sub national population projections

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%
Norfolk	903,680	964,241	1,029,870	6.70%	13.96%

[Subnational population projections for England](#) 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 2020 and children with disabilities age 15 – 18

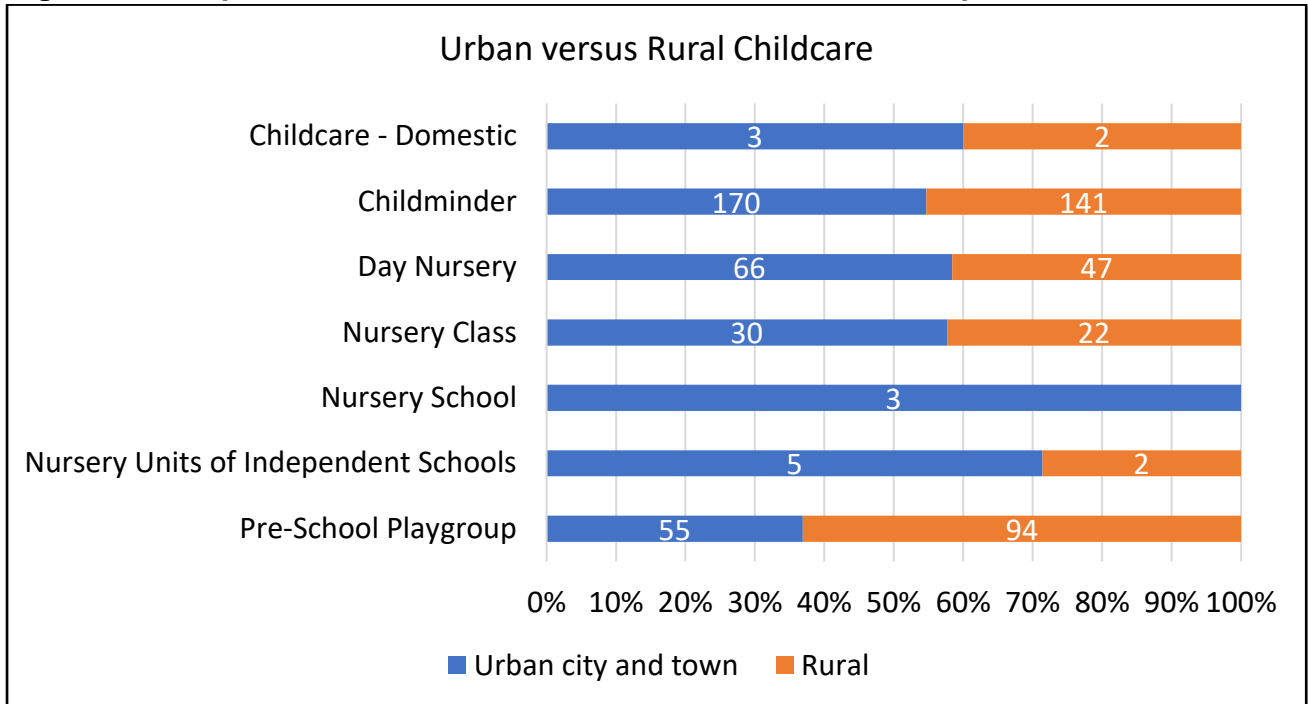
Age	Breckland	Broadland	Great Yarmouth	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	North Norfolk	Norwich	South Norfolk	Norfolk
0	1,278	1,040	942	1,346	653	1,423	1,195	7,877
1	1,305	1,147	986	1,450	682	1,437	1,349	8,356
2	1,437	1,161	1,038	1,489	809	1,468	1,418	8,820
3	1,534	1,285	1,101	1,653	828	1,526	1,534	9,461
4	1,570	1,343	1,119	1,669	833	1,531	1,622	9,687
5	1,575	1,309	1,109	1,783	888	1,446	1,596	9,706
6	1,588	1,293	1,094	1,727	935	1,572	1,576	9,785
7	1,676	1,441	1,115	1,831	858	1,587	1,726	10,234
8	1,599	1,518	1,153	1,803	1,017	1,646	1,677	10,413
9	1,664	1,491	1,159	1,820	998	1,513	1,763	10,408
10	1,627	1,403	1,272	1,734	1,002	1,479	1,797	10,314
11	1,571	1,490	1,103	1,677	972	1,493	1,789	10,095
12	1,643	1,446	1,177	1,778	976	1,545	1,777	10,342
13	1,535	1,509	1,147	1,667	957	1,394	1,723	9,932
14	1,464	1,318	1,072	1,633	975	1,359	1,734	9,555
CWD 15-18	78	97	53	139	51	88	81	587
Totals	23,144	20,291	16,640	25,199	13,434	22,507	24,357	145,572

[Population estimates for the UK](#) 25/06/2021 (CWD updated 26/07/2021)

- 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 39,924 children in Norfolk age 11 – 14, up 3,994 from the mid 2017 estimate and 172,182 children aged 0-17, up 2,157 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 Figure 8 below shows that over 50% of childcare providers are in urban areas except for pre-school playgroups where this is reversed, 63% of pre-school playgroups are in rural locations. Just under half of families in Norfolk

live in a rural area.

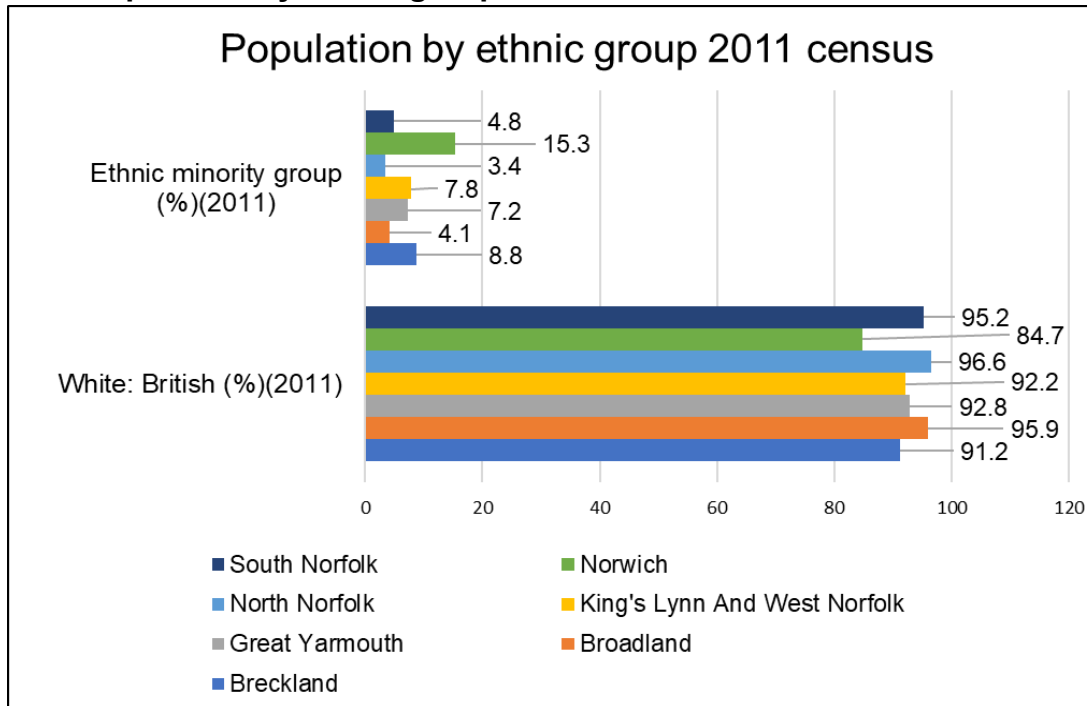
Figure 8. Comparison of numbers of urban and rural childcare provision



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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

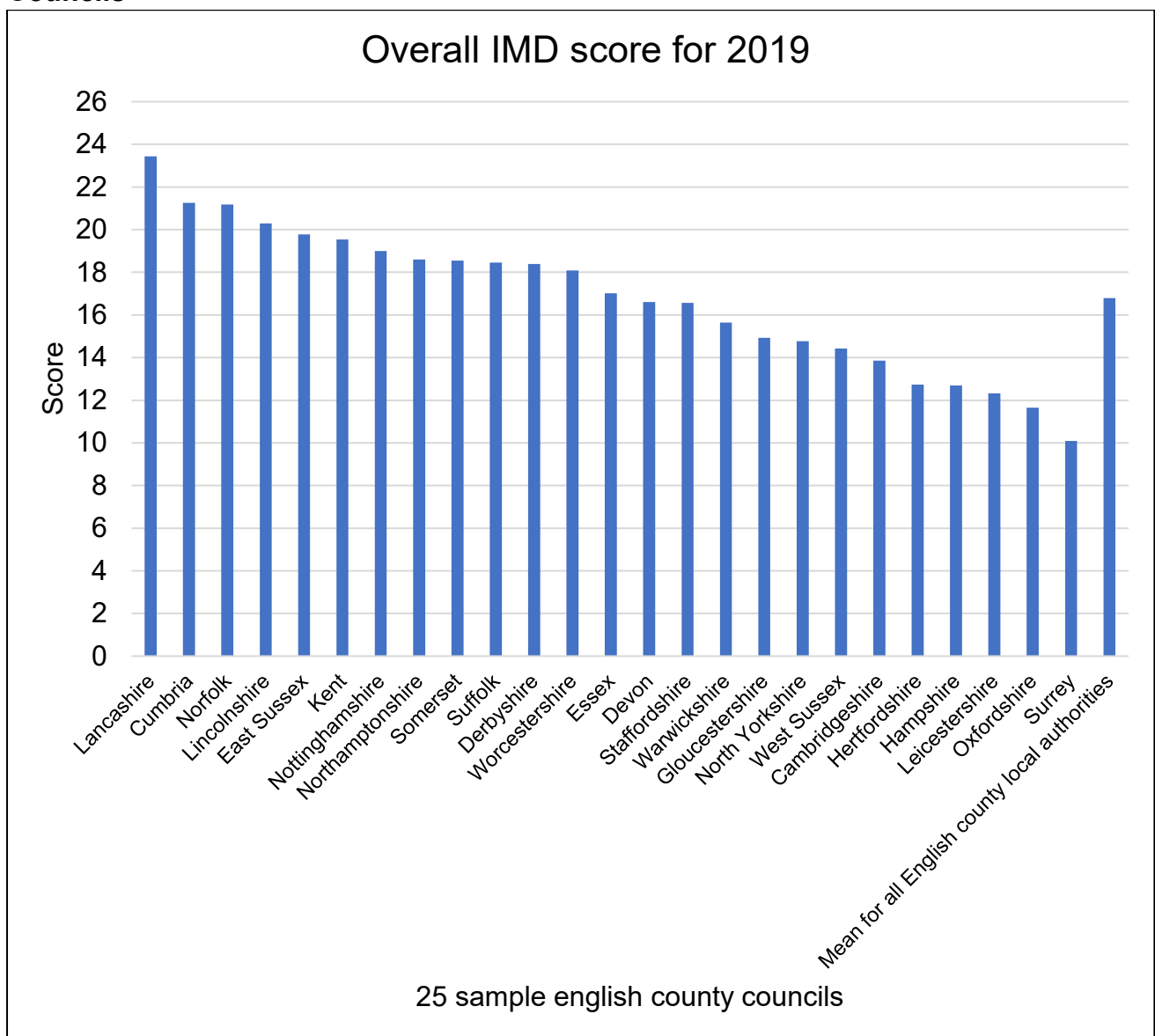


[Norfolk Insight - Demographics and Statistics - Data Observatory](#) 2011 Census

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

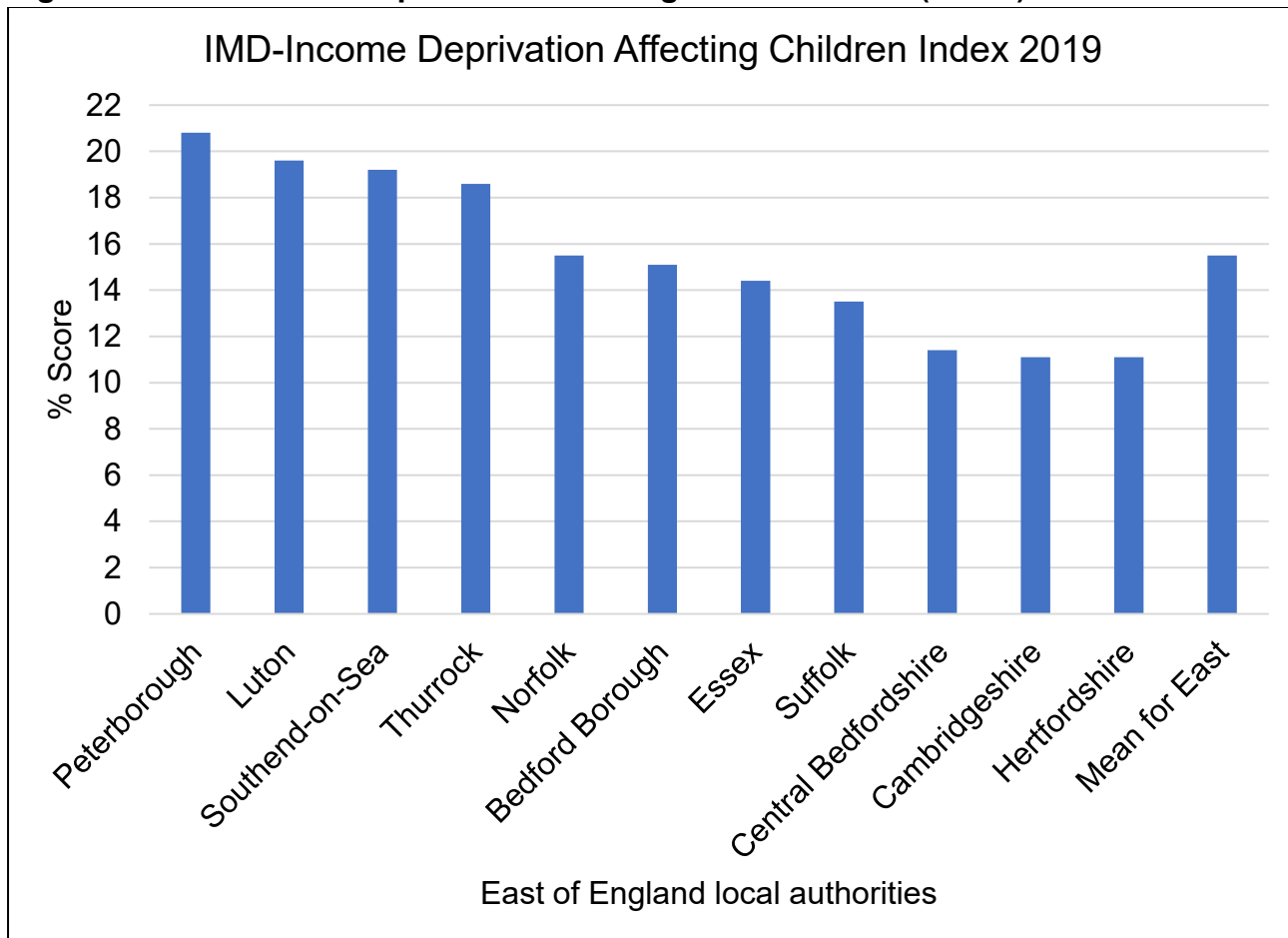


Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation 08/05/2021

[Indices of Multiple Deprivation - Score in Norfolk](#)

6.13 The IMD-Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IMD-IDACI) for 2019 shows Norfolk with a percentage score of 15.5, the same as the mean for the eastern local authorities. Figure 11 also shows that of the eleven East of England Local Authorities Norfolk has the 5th highest percentage score within a range of 20.8 or Peterborough and 11.1 for both Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

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



Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Indices of deprivation 08/05/2021

[Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index - Norfolk Comparison](#)

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 the regional and national average.

Figure 12. Employment – Jan 2020 to Dec 2020

Area	Economically Active %	In employment %	Employees %	Self-employed %	Unemployed %
Norfolk	80.7	76.4	66.7	9.3	5.1
East of England	80.4	77.2	66.6	10.4	3.8
Great Britain	79.1	75.4	65.2	9.9	4.6

[Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics](#) 21/06/2021

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 2021 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 childcare provision.

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

District	Permitted dwellings	Completed dwellings	Expected dwellings	Number of additional 3-4 year olds
Breckland	10,213	587	9,626	934
Broadland	10,055	908	9,147	887
Great Yarmouth	3,395	1,758	681	66
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	7,855	3744	4,111	399
North Norfolk	3,789	2,098	1,690	164
Norwich	6,017	4,434	1,583	154
South Norfolk	8,266	3,242	5,024	487
Total	49,590	16,771	31,862	3,091

NCC LGIP 2021 and District Council Building Progress Surveys Summer 2021

- 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 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 is available on request: email csearlyyearsadvice@norfolk.gov.uk

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

8.1 As of August 2021 Norfolk had 743 childcare providers operating from a total of 786 locations across the county.

Figure 14. Number of locations of childcare provision across Norfolk

Childcare provider type	Sep 17	Dec 18	Jun 19	Sep 20	Aug 21	Diff. Sep 17 to Dec 18	Diff. Dec 18 to Jun 19	Diff. Jun 19 to Sep 20	Diff. Sep 20 to Aug 21
Day Nursery	137	135	131	131	131	-2	-4	0	0
Pre-school Playgroup	180	166	155	144	136	-14	-9	-11	-8
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	534	486	465	444	387	-48	-21	-21	-57
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	12	12	11	9	9	0	-1	-2	0
School Run (Nursery School, Nursery Class, Day Nursery, Pre-school)	110	117	115	121	123	+7	-2	+6	+2
Total	973	916	877	849	786	-57	-37	-28	-63

NCC Synergy Education Live July 2021

- 8.2 The number of early years and childcare providers in the county continues to reduce. In the 2020 CSA the numbers of pre-school, childminder, nursery class, nursery school and day nursery locations were 849, this has dropped by 63 locations to 786 locations over the last year (7.4%).
- 8.3 Once again most closures were from childminders, more than double the number of closures recorded last year, mostly because of the pandemic. The small increase in school run childcare is 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 State Funded - Governor Run, by District Council area.

Figure 15. Number of childcare providers offering funded early education entitlement places by district council, August 2021

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	State Funded Governor Run*	Total
Breckland	20	24	46	2	15	107
Broadland	16	23	58	1	15	113
Great Yarmouth	13	5	21	0	17	56
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	24	25	52	1	22	124
North Norfolk	14	15	18	1	20	68
Norwich	16	13	20	3	17	69
South Norfolk	24	30	50	0	15	119
Norfolk Total	127	135	265	8	121	656

*Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery
NCC Synergy Education Live August 2021

- 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 As reported in last year's CSA, 94 childcare providers did not reopen at the start of the autumn 2020 term because of Covid-19. These providers may or may not reopen in the long run though, even so, Figure 14 shows there are now 63 fewer childcare provider locations compared to this time last year.
- 8.7 Figure 16 and 17 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 end of the summer 2021 term.

Figure 16. Number of reported funded places available for 3 & 4 year olds by District (August 2021)

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	School Run*	Total
Breckland	1,090	880	263	42	679	2,954
Broadland	738	744	386	68	698	2,634
Great Yarmouth	1,050	246	136	0	687	2,119

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	School Run*	Total
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,452	827	329	56	886	3,550
North Norfolk	586	552	131	26	619	1,915
Norwich	810	494	157	220	796	2,477
South Norfolk	1,090	866	278	0	518	2,752
Total	6,816	4,609	1,681	412	4,883	18,401

*Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery
NCC Yearly Years Finance Local Agreements August 2021

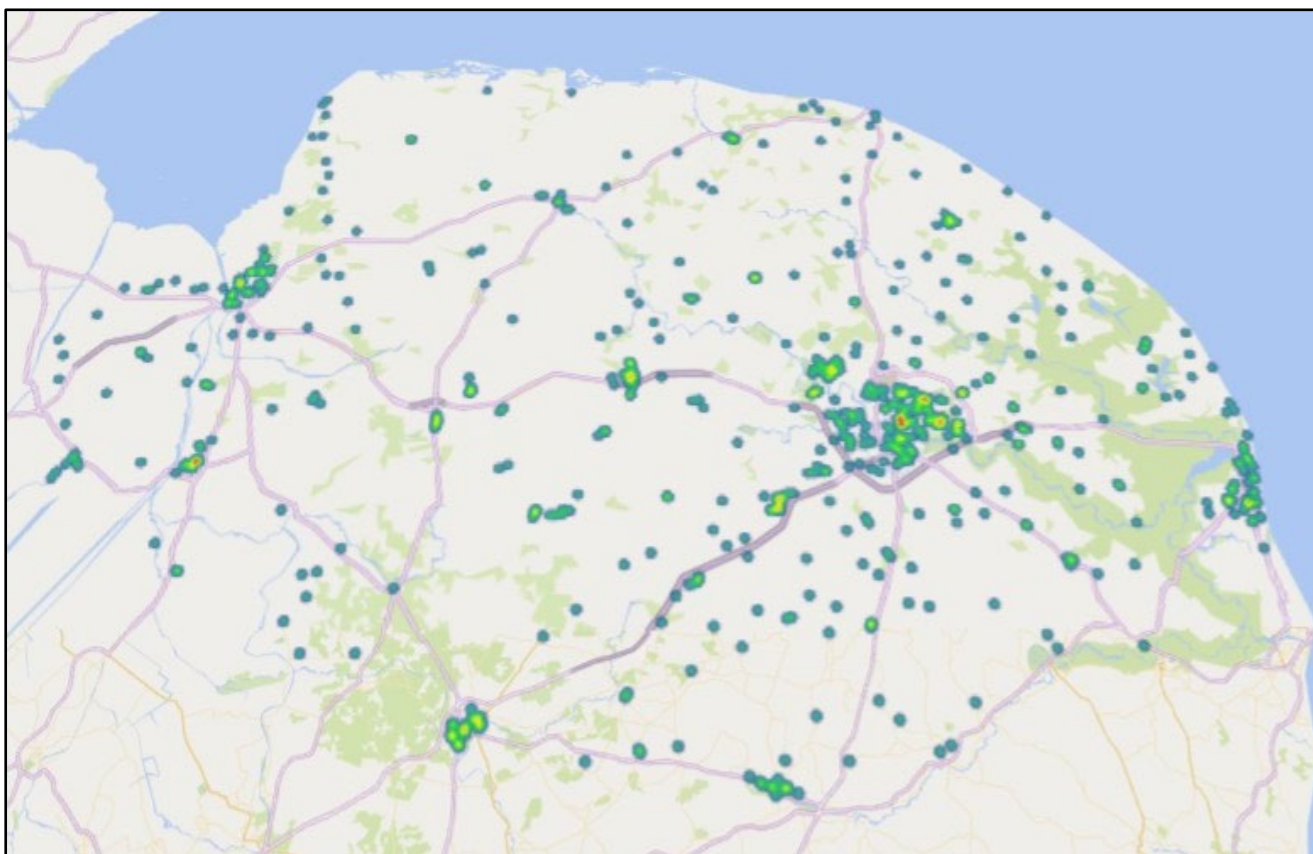
Figure 17. Number of reported funded places available for 2 year olds by District (August 2021)

District	Day nursery (PVI)	Pre-school playgroup (PVI)	Childminder and childcare – domestic (PVI)	Nursery units of independent schools (PVI)	School Run*	Total
Breckland	508	350	241	0	80	1,179
Broadland	298	294	342	0	56	990
Great Yarmouth	406	76	118	0	122	722
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	534	362	264	24	86	1,270
North Norfolk	290	200	124	0	116	730
Norwich	396	192	129	0	164	881
South Norfolk	560	412	258	0	51	1,281
Total	2,992	1,886	1,476	24	675	7,053

*Nursery class, Nursery school, Pre-school, Day nursery
NCC Yearly Years Finance Local Agreements August 2021

8.9 By comparison, there has been an increase in the number of 3-4 year old funded places by 1,568 (8.5%) from autumn 2020 and an increase in the number of 2 year old funded places by 2,080 (29.5%).

Figure 18. Location of childcare providers offering funded places – summer 2021



NCC Synergy Education Live August 2021

8.12 DfE statistics indicate take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement in Norfolk for 3 and 4 year olds has dropped by 9 percentage points over the last 4 years and now equals the national average percentage points as shown in Figure 19 below. Gov.uk state that 2021 is the first year of data covering COVID-19, collected during January's national lockdown. A higher proportion of children recorded as registered to receive early education entitlements will have been temporarily absent during census week itself than during previous years.

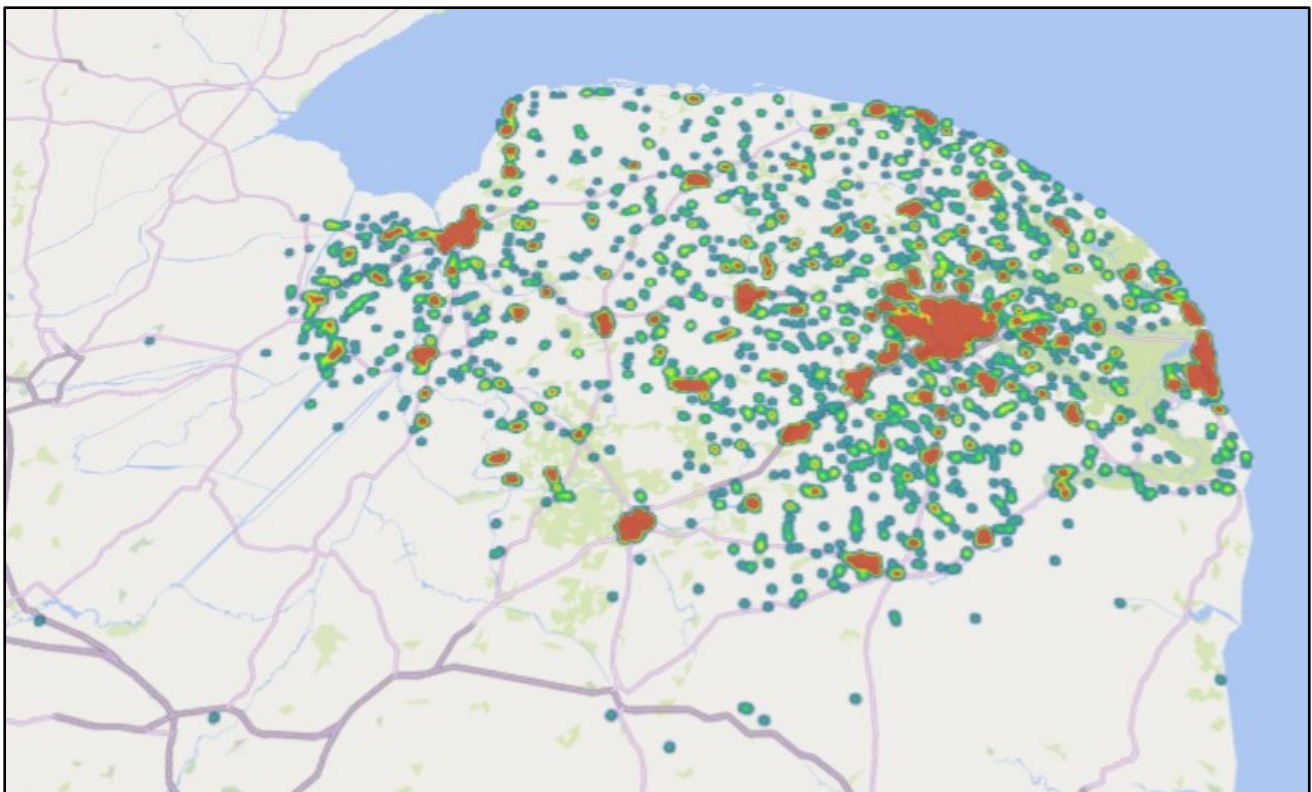
Figure 19. Take up for universal 15 hour funded places for 3 & 4 year olds 2018- 2021

Area	Data	2018	2019	2020	2021
Norfolk	Office for National Statistics population estimate for 3 and 4 year olds	19,193	19,162	19,203	18,803
Norfolk	Number of 3 and 4 year olds	19,066	18,315	18,069	16,992
Norfolk	Percentage of 3 and 4 year old children benefiting	99%	96%	94%	90%

Area	Data	2018	2019	2020	2021
England	Office for National Statistics population estimate for 3 and 4 year olds	1,367,481	1,368,094	1,369,923	1,351,228
England	Number of 2 year olds	1,284,632	1,277,137	1,271,544	1,211,991
England	Percentage of 3 and 4 year old children benefiting	94%	93%	93%	90%

[Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK](#) 26/07/2021

Figure 20. Location by postcode of funded 3 & 4 year olds – attending summer 2021



NCC Attendance report for summer claim period 2021

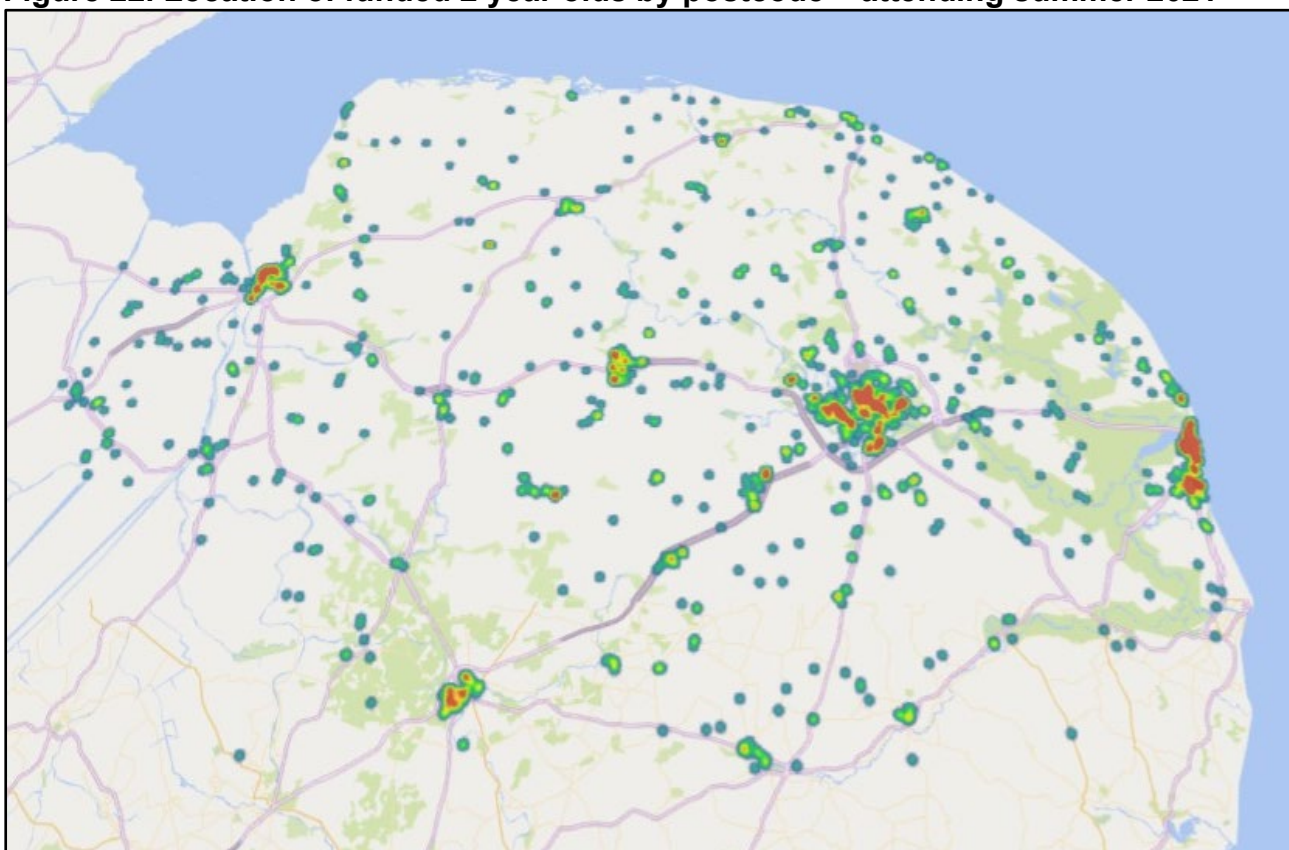
- 8.13 Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take up is significantly lower than for the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Take up rates could be influenced by factors such as parental preference for keeping the child at home, which is particularly relevant for 2 year olds, not enough local childcare to meet parental preference and informal childcare being used instead.
- 8.14 Figure 21 shows DfE statistics for 2 year old take up, indicating take up for Norfolk has remained below the national average.

Figure 21. Take up for 15 hour funded places for 2YOs 2018-2021

Area	Data	2018	2019	2020	2021
Norfolk	DWP population estimate for 2 year olds.	2,675	2,792	2,596	2,528
Norfolk	Number of 2 year olds	2,172	1,871	1,649	1,498
Norfolk	Percentage of 2 year old children benefiting	81%	67%	64%	59%
England	DWP population estimate for 2 year olds.	215,879	219,316	207,392	201,562
England	Number of 2 year olds	154,962	148,751	143,439	124,543
England	Percentage of 2 year old children benefiting	72%	68%	69%	62%

[Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK](#) 26/07/2021

Figure 22. Location of funded 2 year olds by postcode – attending summer 2021



NCC Attendance report for summer claim period 2021

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.

Figure 23. Average charge per hour for early years childcare by type and district – August 2021

District	Childminders and childcare -domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)
Breckland	£3.98	£4.77	£4.02
Broadland	£4.30	£5.20	£4.34
Great Yarmouth	£3.98	£4.48	£4.04
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	£4.21	£4.75	£4.11
North Norfolk	£4.27	£5.01	£3.85
Norwich	£4.67	£5.48	£4.71
South Norfolk	£4.36	£5.14	£4.13
Norfolk average	£4.25	£4.98	£4.17

NCC Synergy Education Live, August 2021

8.16 The average costs per hour in Figure 23 have been compared to figures for September 2020 in Figure 24 below, showing the percentage increase over the last year.

Figure 24. Percentage price increase per hour across childcare types

Average Costs per hour	Childminders & childcare-domestic	Day nursery (full daycare)	Pre-school playgroups (sessional)	Average
September 2020	£4.16	£4.84	£4.10	£4.37
August 2021	£4.25	£4.98	£4.17	£4.47
Average % price increase 2020-21	+2.16%	+2.89%	+1.71%	+2.28%

NCC Synergy Education Live August 2021

8.17 Figure 25 shows the average UK inflation rate for May 2021 and indicates childcare prices have increased above the rate of inflation rate for Childminders and Day Nurseries but not for Pre-school Playgroups over the last year.

Figure 25. UK inflation rate

Date	UK inflation rate
Average inflation rate May 2021	2.1%

[UK Historical Inflation Rate](#) Update July 2021

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 continued to be 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 the Family Information Team as described in 3.2 above.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 The considerable amount of new housing development in Norfolk could also increase demand for childcare.

10. Childcare Quality

- 10.1 The quality of early years 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 Ofsted did not conduct any routine inspections between March and August 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, between September and December 2020, they restarted Childcare Register inspections and carried out interim visits as part of their phased return to routine inspections. Ofsted’s regulatory and enforcement activity, including registration of new providers also continued during the latest reporting period up to the end of March 2021.
- 10.3 Figures 26 and 27 tables and 28 bar chart show the comparison between Norfolk and England for providers with current inspection grades. The Figure 28 bar chart shows that Norfolk and England have the same percentage points of ‘Outstanding’ providers whilst Norfolk is 2 percentage points lower than the England average for childcare providers judged ‘Good’ by Ofsted. Whilst Norfolk has 1 percentage point more ‘Requires Improvement’ childcare providers it has the same percentage point of ‘Inadequate’ childcare providers as the England average.

Figure 26. Quality grades of Ofsted registered childcare providers up to 31st March 2021 for Norfolk

Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk	Norfolk
93 of 529	409 of 529	21 of 529	6 of 529
18%	77%	4%	1%

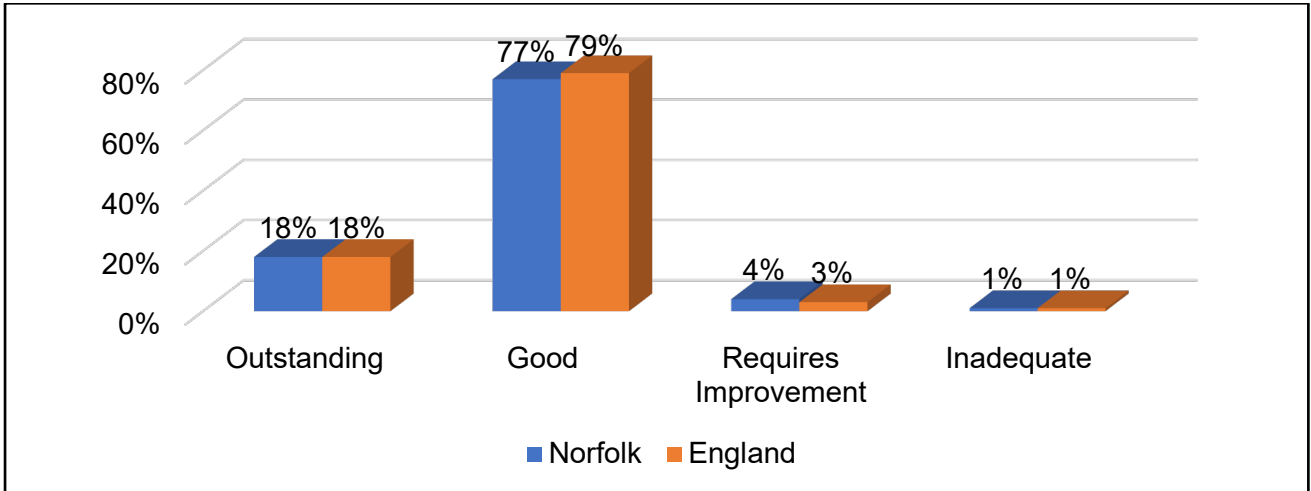
[Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021 - GOV.UK](#)

Figure 27. Quality grades of Ofsted registered childcare providers up to 31st March 2021 for England

Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	England	England	England
7,233 of 14,314	32,610 of 14,314	1,143 of 14,314	328 of 14,314
18%	79%	3%	1%

[Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021 - GOV.UK](#)

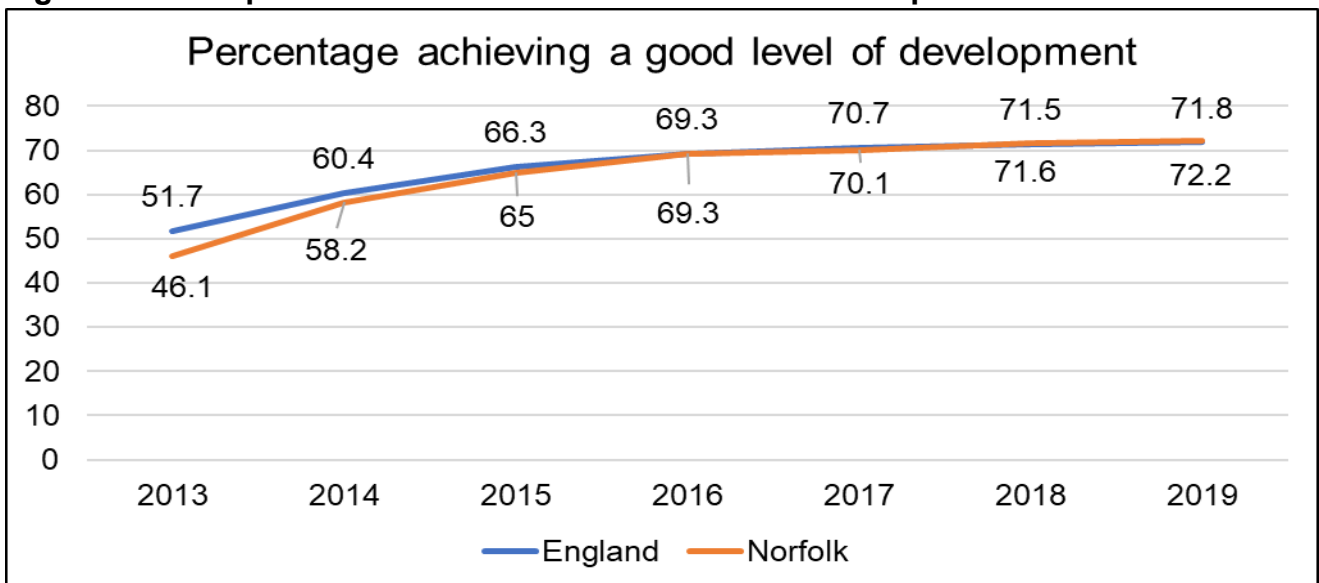
Figure 28. Ofsted inspection grades as a percentage to 31st March 2021



[Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 March 2021 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2021)

- 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 29. Comparison of children’s results at the EYFSP up to 2018-19



[Annual standards report 2019](#)

- 10.7 Due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic EYFS assessments were cancelled in 2020 and 2021.
- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 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.
- 10.10 Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a growing national issue. NCC provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce. From September 2020 to the end of August 2021 there were 389 jobs advertised by childcare providers. Last year the number of jobs advertised was 255, which was much less than previous years, having been affected by Covid-19.
- 10.11 The Early Years Learning Team has supported the development of Peer Support Networks, 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 the support and development of leaders. This has been enabled through several leaders from good and outstanding provision accessing peer support/mentoring training.

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 [SEND Local Offer - Norfolk County Council](#).
- 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 all LAs have a statutory duty to provide an SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) for 3 and 4 year olds. 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. From April 2021 a SENIF application process was introduced for funded 2 year olds as an outcome of the Early Education Funding Rates consultation. This addition in numbers of children and childcare provider claims is shown in Figure 30 below.
- 11.6 Exceptional Circumstance Funding remains in place for non-funded children. (It is not a statutory duty for LAs to provide this funding).

Figure 30. No. of children and childcare provider applications benefitting from SEN Inclusion Fund

Term	Number of children	% increase on last year	Number of applications	% increase on last year
Autumn 2020	511	0.6%	135	5.5%
Spring 2021	641	-2.6%	149	1.4%
Summer 2021	845	*	171	*

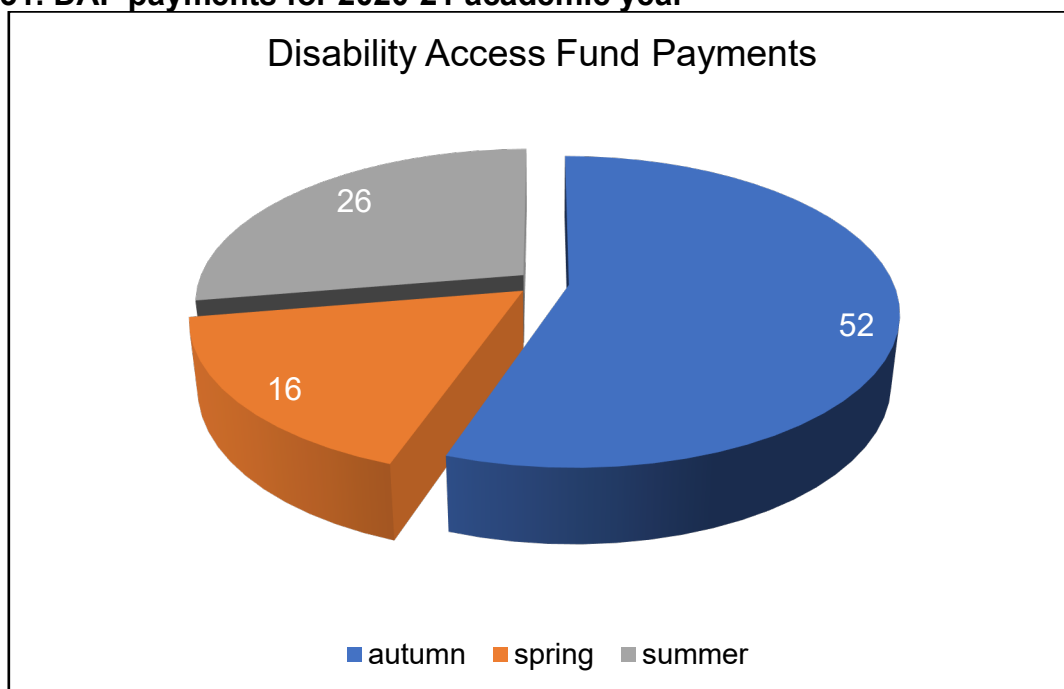
*There were no comparable figures for summer 2020 due to Covid 19
 NCC Early Years Finance Team August 2021

- 11.7 Comparing Figure 30 numbers with last year’s numbers there is a slight increase in take up in both children and childcare providers benefitting from this funding for the autumn and spring terms and the expected increase in summer with the addition of the SENIF for 2 year olds.
- 11.8 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). 128 children were in receipt of this funding during the summer term 2021, a significant increase on last year's figure of 75 (70.6%).

- 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 2020-21 academic year Norfolk made DAF payments for 94 children, slightly up from last year's figure of 88. Figure 31 shows the payments on a termly basis.

Figure 31. DAF payments for 2020-21 academic year



NCC Early Years Finance Team August 2021

- 11.10 During the summer 2021 term there were 13,652 applications for three and four year old early education funding. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) payments were made for 2,479 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across Norfolk. This represents 18.16% of the number of children claiming early years education funding. This represents a good level of take up, though down 0.06% from spring 2020.
- 11.11 The children receiving EYPP funding were also eligible for the national free school meal voucher scheme introduced because of the Covid-19 pandemic, as support for families.
- 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 Service will continue to raise awareness to increase the take up rate. [Early years pupil premium - Norfolk County Council](#)

12. Children in Care and Previously in Care

- 12.1 The Virtual School for Children in Care and Previously in Care has a support remit which includes children in care, previously in care, 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 148 children in care age 0-4 were eligible for a funded early education childcare place from September 2020 to the end of August 2021. 50 children accessed their funded childcare place (33%) which is a drop in take up from last year's figure of 55%. It is recognised that children in care are less likely than their peers to access early education and it is noted that many of these children did not access their funded place due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It can be seen in Figure 32 that confidence in the childcare market increased during the summer term as take up increased.

Figure 32. Take up of funded early education childcare places by children in care

Term	Number of eligible 0-4's	Number of children accessing free funded childcare	Percentage take-up per term
Autumn 2020	112	28	25%
Spring 2021	103	29	28%
Summer 2021	92	44	48%

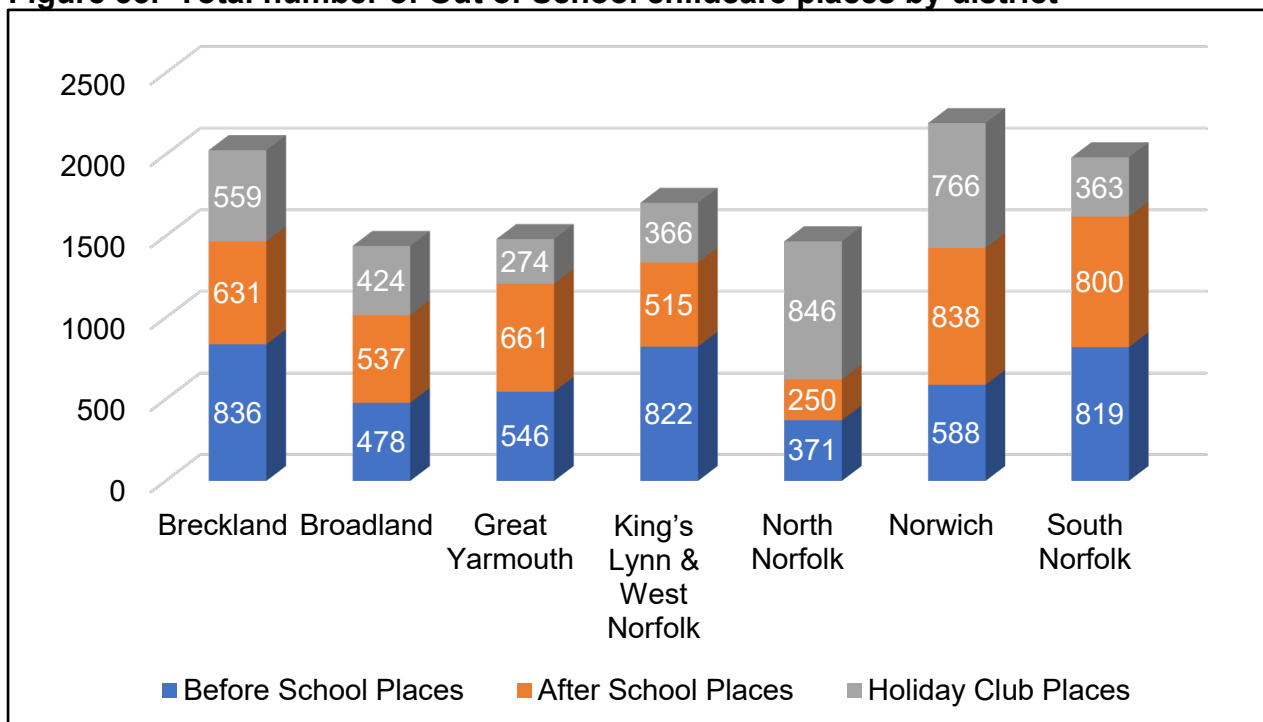
NCC Early Years Finance and Virtual School for Children in Care and Previously in Care, Adoption and Special Guardianship Order Team August 2021

- 12.3 Norfolk's Virtual School for Children in Care and Previously in Care continues to liaise 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. For the second year in succession, no children were funded under this criterion from 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021, compared to 10 children during 2018-2019 academic year.
- 12.5 From September 2021 the Norfolk Virtual School for Children in Care and Previously in Care are launching the Watch Me Play Project to build positive relationships with Foster Carers for children 0 to 7 years. This strategy supports child initiated play and enables adults to observe communication and language development through play.

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 This year the government has extended its Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), for all school children eligible for free school meals, to all local authorities. For the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays each local authority must provide four hours of free activities plus a healthy meal for four days per week for one week at Easter and Christmas and four weeks in the summer holidays.
- 13.4 There are 23,000 children and young people eligible for free school meals in Norfolk and attendance on this new scheme is optional. Covid-19 restrictions meant that at Easter the offer was mainly virtual and over 8,000 children took part in 'Big Norfolk Holiday Fun'. In Summer 2021 a programme of activities for 5-16 year olds was rolled out in all districts across Norfolk to around 5,000 children and young people.
- 13.5 Dependent upon specific criteria, not all 'wraparound' provision must 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.
- 13.6 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.
- 13.7 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 33. Total number of Out of School childcare places by district



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13.8 Figure 33 shows the numbers of places reportedly available by all registered Out of School providers in Norfolk, by district. The number of places across Norfolk is approximately 12,290, an increase of 169 from last year. From Figure 7 on page 18, Norfolk has an estimated 101,371 children and young people aged 5 to 14, including those children with disabilities aged 15 to 18 years, giving an overall figure of approximately 12 places for every 100 children/young people.

13.9 Norwich has the greatest number of out of school childcare places across all provision than all other districts whilst Broadland has the fewest. Provision in the school run sector is higher 58%, than provision run by the PVI sector 42%.

13.10 76% of Breakfast Clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 64% of private, voluntary or independent breakfast clubs are located on school sites. School sites account for 91% of the breakfast clubs offered to parents in Norfolk.

13.11 56% of After School Clubs are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 51% of private, voluntary or independent after school clubs are located on school sites. School sites account for 77% 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.

13.12 13% of Holiday Playschemes are run by schools in both the primary and secondary phase. 32% of private, voluntary or independent holiday playschemes are located on school sites. School sites account for 41% of the Holiday Playschemes offered to parents in Norfolk.

13.13 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.

13.14 Figure 34 shows the current average costs of Out of School care for district and for the county.

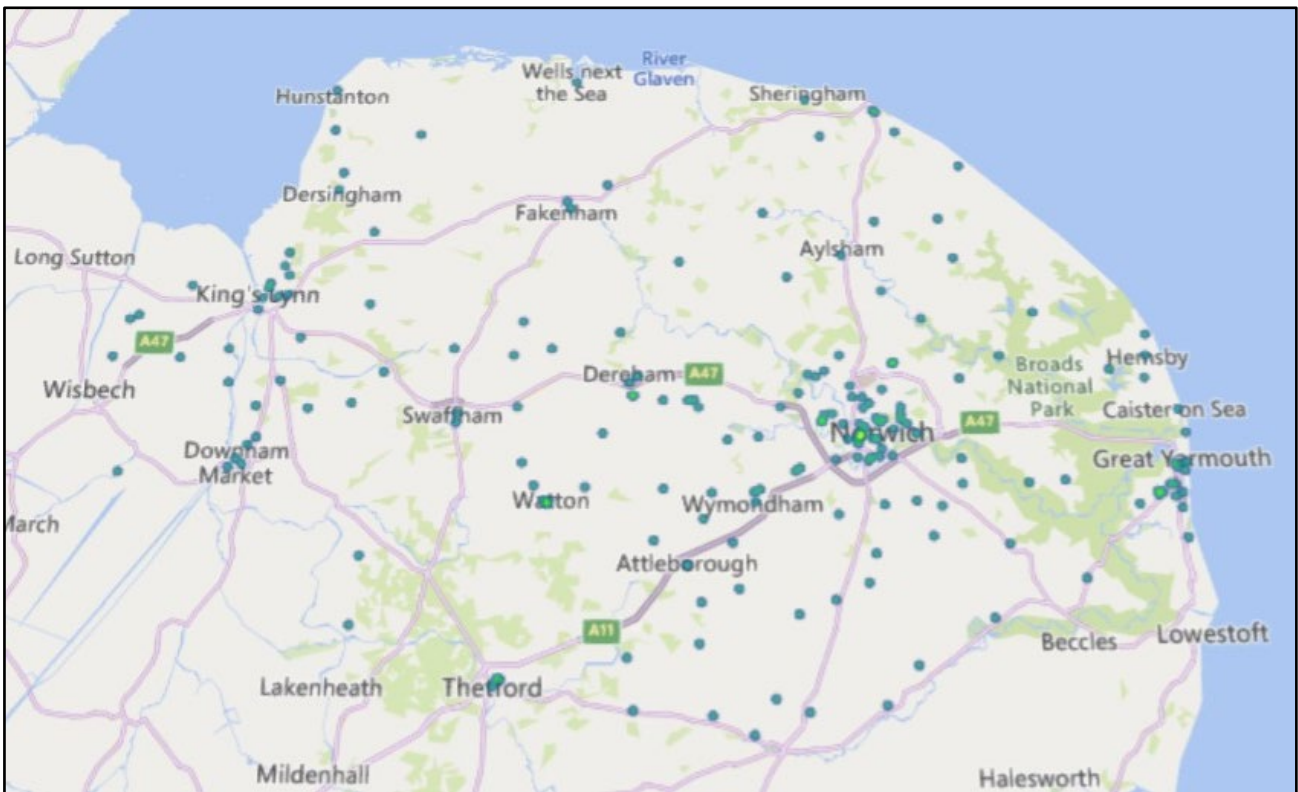
Figure 34. Average costs for Out of School childcare by provider type and district

District	Breakfast Club Session (cost per session)	After School Session (cost per session)	Holiday Playscheme (cost per day)
Breckland	£3.68	£8.14	£26.89
Broadland	£4.27	£7.75	£24.38
Great Yarmouth	£1.80	£6.07	£34.67
King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	£3.17	£7.40	£35.40
North Norfolk	£3.01	£7.73	£27.31
Norwich	£2.58	£8.14	£26.63
South Norfolk	£3.72	£9.58	£27.94
Norfolk average	£3.18	£7.83	£29.03

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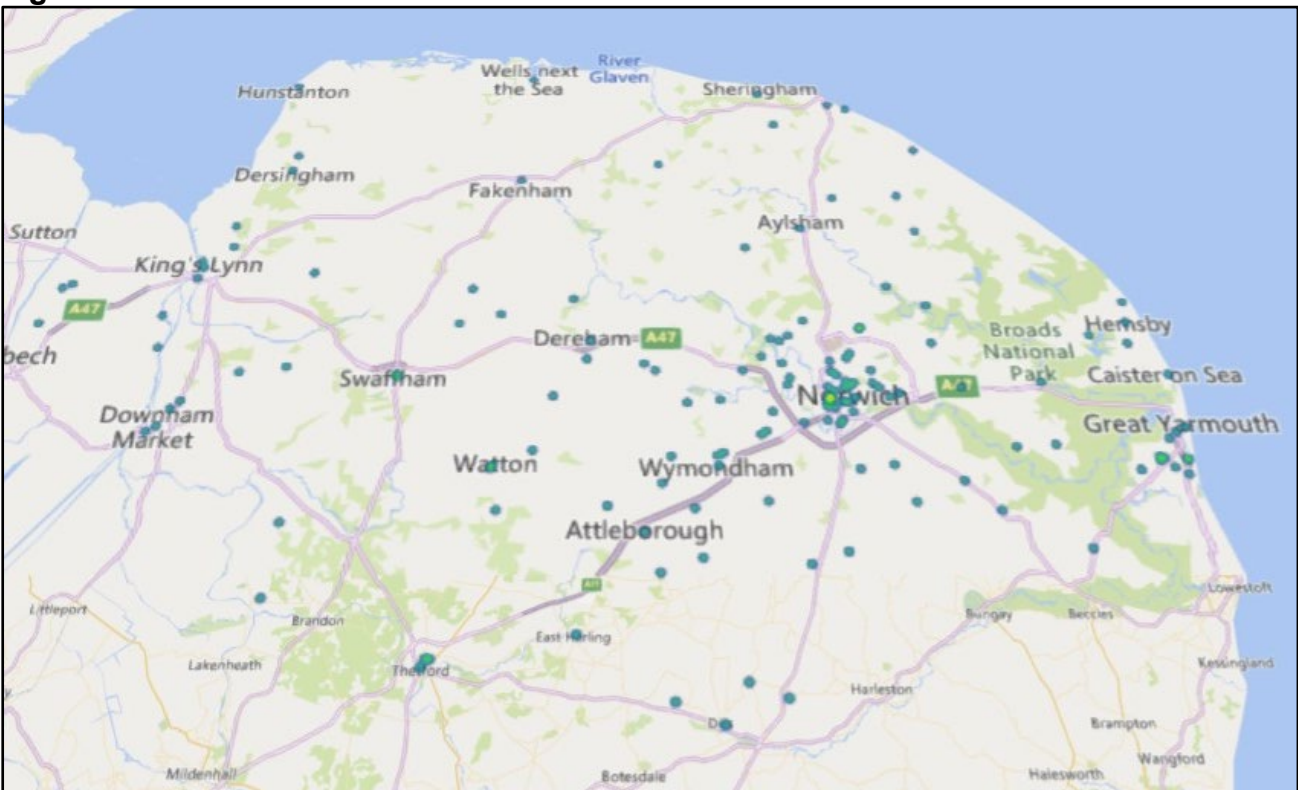
13.15 Figures 35 to 37 below show the locations of Breakfast Clubs, After school clubs and Holiday Playschemes respectively.

Figure 35. Location of Breakfast Clubs



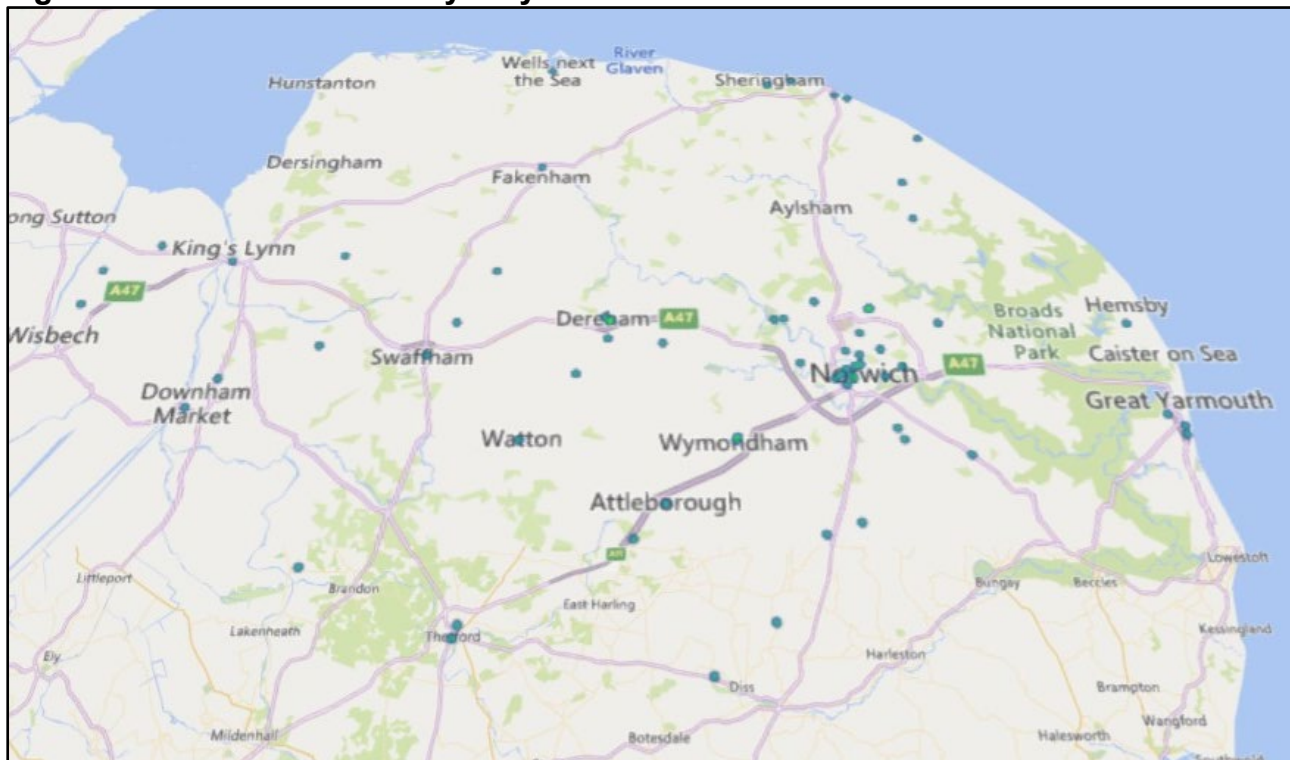
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Figure 36. Location of After School Clubs



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Figure 37. Location of Holiday Playschemes



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Previous versions of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment are available at [Childcare sufficiency - Norfolk County Council](#)

Norfolk County Council, October 2021