

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Final report

November 2015



Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Introduction | Page 5 |
| Methodology | Page 5 |
| Executive Summary | Page 5 |
| Recommendations | Page 8 |
| Action Planning | Page 9 |
| Report - Background | Page 10 |
| Demand for childcare - Context | Page 10-12 |
| Supply – Assessment of Early Years Provision | Page 13-21 |
| Consultation with Parents | Page 21 |
| Improving Outcomes | Page 22 |
| Managing Performance | Page 23 |
| Background Papers | Page 25 |
| Appendix 1 - Take Up of 2 Year Old Funded Entitlement | Page 26 |
| Appendix 2 - 3 and 4 year old funded entitlement take up | Page 27 |
| Appendix 3 – Map of Childminders in Norfolk | Page 28 |

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on Local Authorities in England to ensure sufficient childcare for children aged 0-14 (18 years where a child has a disability), so far as is reasonably practical, for working parents or those who are undertaking a programme of training or study towards employment.
- 1.2 Norfolk County Council is required to report annually to its elected council members on how it meets its duty under the Childcare Act 2006 and to make this report available and accessible for parents. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to work with providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sector to create sustainable, accessible, affordable and high quality childcare, sufficient to meet the needs of parents and carers and to say how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 There is no clear or accurate way of counting childcare places. Providers can change the hours and age range catered for to meet demand at any one time. This assessment of sufficiency is based on assumptions made from drawing on a range of data sets, both qualitative and quantitative, including
 - Analysis of existing childcare provision – through data on the take up of funded 2, 3 and 4 year old places, Early Years Census, Ofsted data, DfE Benchmarking and Norfolk County Council in-house data systems and intelligence
 - Analysis of population data from Health, school forecasting and 2011 Census.
 - Consultation with parents and providers, undertaken through an on-line questionnaire and face to face questionnaires
 - Consideration of previous sufficiency assessments and trend data, including parental preference trends from knowledge of the local area.
 - District Council Local Housing Plans

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report outlines how Norfolk County Council can be assured it is meeting the duty to secure sufficient childcare for children 0-14 year olds to enable parents to work or access training. It includes details of the Local Authority role of facilitating the childcare market including funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.
- 3.2 The childcare market is currently not set up to support working parents. The inflexibility of provision and the complexity of funding through Tax credits and childcare voucher plus the undersupply of childcare prevent women returning to the labour market. A growing population, large scale housing development and anticipated changes to funded childcare are increasing the demand in Norfolk.

- 3.3 With household incomes in Norfolk lower than the national and regional average, the cost of childcare remains the biggest concern for families. Surveys show that costs are continuing to rise while wages are largely static, taking a high percentage of family income. Many families use a mixture of formal and informal childcare.
- 3.4 Having access to informal care can be the most important factor affecting the finding of affordable childcare that fits in with work or study. Often providers are only able to offer morning or afternoon sessions for the free entitlement and are not flexible.
- 3.5 Government measures to support childcare include: - 1) a Tax Free Childcare scheme for working families in autumn 2015, 2) covering 85% of the cost of childcare for all families receiving Universal Credit and 3) the Early Years Pupil Premium and 4) 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents in September 2017.
- 3.6 Childcare providers are struggling to cover their costs in the face of rising business rates and service costs and a recent changes to funding in Norfolk highlighted extensive concerns, particularly for childminders. The Government is planning to increase the funding rate in 2017.
- 3.7 Local authorities have a duty to offer choice to parents and to balance the market. There is a large Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector in Norfolk, though the county does not attract the large national chains. Parental preference is a key factor to consider in childcare sufficiency planning. Parents are still not using childminders for funded hours despite expansion in the numbers of childminders who offer funded places. Only 4% of funded hours for 3-4 year olds are claimed by childminders and 8% for funded two year olds.
- 3.8 Childminding numbers are continuing to decline, from 859 in 2008 to a current total of 588 in Norfolk. Home Childcarers; registered carers who work in parents homes were introduced in 2010. The number of Home Childcarers is 82 at present.
- 3.9 The Government is keen to develop childcare on school sites. Capital funding for local authorities to develop new provision is currently only available via the schools Devolved Formula Capital and Maintenance funding. Early Years facilities on school sites can, however, be managed by a third party and in Norfolk 107 PVI nurseries are on school sites (33 Private, 72 Voluntary, 1 Independent, 1 Health).
- 3.10 The current picture for workforce qualifications in Norfolk is difficult to measure. The DfE Benchmarking tool shows that in 2014 the percentage of PVI providers with staff with graduate level Qualified Teacher or Early Years Professional status was 30% in Norfolk, considerably below the national average of 41% and had dropped from 34% in 2012.
- 3.11 Funding early education for children in their formative years, before they start school is intended to improve Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results, leading to better outcomes for disadvantaged children. By age 5 the youngest children in our schools are assessed against the EYFSP.

- 3.12 Demand for baby places has reduced with changes to maternity and paternity leave over recent years. Staff ratios for babies are expensive and many providers have used places previously provided for babies to increase their provision for funded two year olds, as this is more sustainable for them.
- 3.13 The sector expanded dramatically to create places for funded two year olds in 2013/14 and current take up is at 77%, higher than most authorities in the region and above the national average of 65%. The 2YO scheme is still bedding in and more time is needed to sustain the two year old developments. The shortage of places in some areas is still a problem. Plans to try to respond to these gaps are in place, but with no further government capital funding impact has been limited and very few new 2 year old places have opened this year.
- 3.14 Take up and parental demand for 3 and 4 year olds childcare in Norfolk has risen from 83.79% in summer 2014 to 88.56% in spring 2015 but is slightly below the national average and that of East of England neighbours on the DfE Benchmarking tool. These figures suggest that approximately 2,000 children are not taking up their place which has an impact on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results and child outcomes.
- 3.15 Out of School Care in Norfolk is patchy. Only a third of Norfolk's primary schools have access to After School Care on site and 49% have a Breakfast Club. This is well below the national picture. Holiday Playschemes tend not to be based on school sites, as only 9% of schools have direct access to a scheme. This year has seen a rise in complaints to the Local Authority about a lack of Holiday Playschemes and After School care.
- 3.16 The quality of childcare provision in Norfolk is very good and is continuing to improve. In August 2014 analysis showed that 86.2% of childcare and early years settings were rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. In 2015 the figure is 88.4%. Norfolk compares well with the East of England average and out performs the national average. The quality of childminding has greatly improved from 78.9% in August 2014 to 89% rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in 2015.



Recommendations: -

1. Prepare for the provision of 30 hours of funded childcare for 3 to 4 year olds by surveying providers to see who will offer the additional hours and identifying any potential undersupply.
2. Address specific geographical gaps for funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds where possible through market stimulation and support to new or expanding providers.
3. Expand the supply of 2, 3 and 4 year old funded places as part of schools growth and school reorganisation developments.
4. To increase the number of childminders where there is demand, particularly in rural areas, to provide greater choice for parents and provide information on marketing to childminders to improve their sustainability.
5. Enhance the promotion of childminding to parents as an early education option for 2, 3 and 4 year old funded places.
6. Improve take up of funded 2, 3 and 4 year old early education places with the most vulnerable families through partnership working with Children's Centres, Early Help Teams and the Family Information Service.
7. Continue to improve the take up of universal funded early education places through a fresh marketing approach, online information to parents including social media and through our brokerage service.
8. Undertake further analysis of the supply and demand of childcare places for disabled children across the county and continue to improve access to childcare by ensuring providers have the knowledge and skills to support children with SEND.
9. Ensure there are sufficient Primary Schools with access to Out of School childcare places for 5 – 14 year olds, increasing provision where there is demand, in particular holiday care.
10. Support all childcare providers to be sustainable, in particular the small rural pre-schools as these are the foundation of provision for funded early education places in isolated areas of Norfolk.

Action Planning

We will be working with stakeholders and childcare providers to address the following actions: -

1. Address undersupply

Survey providers regarding their plans for the introduction of 30 hours of funded childcare for 3-4 year olds. Plan to address the gaps in provision of funded places through market stimulation and support to new or expanding providers.

2. Working within the Schools growth programme and school reorganisations to develop additional preschool places

Include preschool provision where required within all new school expansion or re-organisational plans and develop a strategy for the commissioning of new places in these areas.

3. Develop and implement a recruitment strategy for childminding provision

Continue the marketing campaign to promote childminding to parents as an early education option. Encourage recruitment in areas with low numbers of childminders and identified demand.

4. Analysis of Need and development of Out of School Care

More focussed work to discover how the current childcare market for 5-14 year olds is meeting children's and parent's needs. Encourage schools and PVI providers to increase provision where there is demand, in particular holiday care.

5. Improve funded take up

A fresh marketing campaign to raise awareness amongst parents. More effective use of social media and online services. Deliver brokerage via Children's Centres and the Family Information Service and through Early Help support to vulnerable families.

6. Provide support to existing childcare providers experiencing sustainability problems, particularly childminders

Online advice on marketing and local marketing surgeries. Plus support and advice focussing on providers, particularly those in rural areas, where there is an identified need.

7. Support children with a disability

Improve data collection to inform on the take up of childcare by disabled children and continue to improve access to childcare by ensuring providers have the knowledge and skills to support children with SEND. Early Years Inclusion Advisors to continue to provide support for providers who have children with a disability within their provision.

4. Background

4.1 Childcare Act

The Childcare Act 2006 places a range of duties on local authorities regarding the provision of sufficient, sustainable and flexible childcare that is responsive to parents' needs¹. Section 7(1) of the Childcare Act 2006 Act places a duty on English local authorities to secure free early years provision for all eligible children in their area. Regulations made under Section 7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the age of children to benefit.

4.2 Definition of childcare

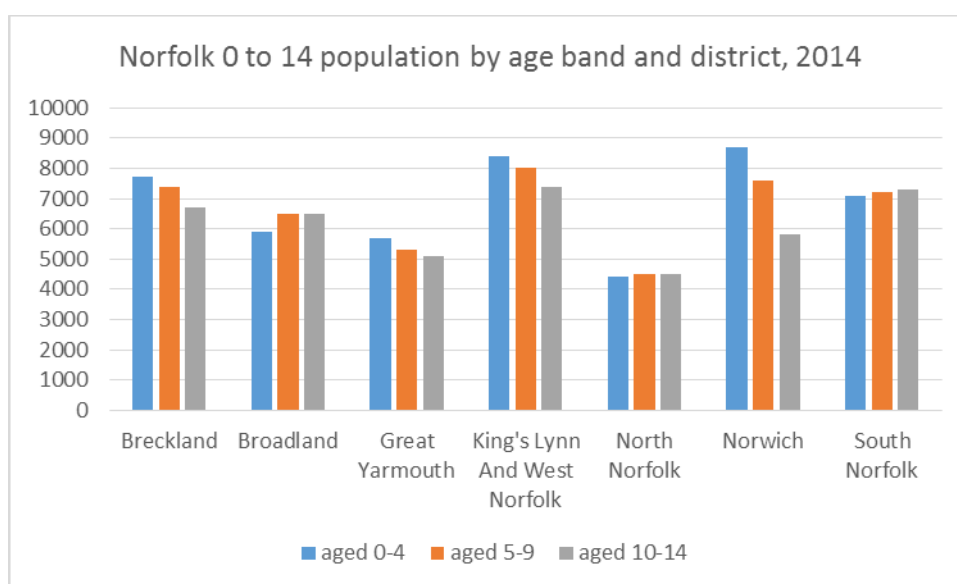
Formal childcare is, broadly speaking, any supervised care for children aged up to 14 or 18 with disabilities, except when they are with their parent/carer/family member or at school during the school day in term-time. Examples would be childminders, nurseries, playgroups, breakfast clubs, after school and holiday provision. It would generally need to be registered by Ofsted for children under the age of eight.

4.3 Informal childcare is unregulated and usually relies on family members and friends. Nationally, over a quarter of families (27 per cent, Sep14), use grandparents to provide childcare during term-time.

5 Demand for childcare – Context

5.1 Population

There are 137,800 children under the age of 15 living in Norfolk (Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2014), which equates to 15.7% of the county's population. This is a lower rate of 0 – 14 year olds in the population than in England (17.8%). The highest numbers of very young children aged 0 to 4 years are found in Norwich and King's Lynn & West Norfolk. Numbers of children aged under 15 are projected to increase by 10% by 2022.



Source: ONS, mid-2014 estimates

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

5.2 Household Income & working patterns

The mean average annual household income is lower for Norfolk than the national average, although over the past two years the gap has narrowed. Norfolk continues to have higher proportions of households in the lower earning brackets and lower proportions in the higher earning brackets compared with national averages.

Table 1: Annual gross pay for all employees, 2015

| Area | Gross annual pay £ | Annual % change |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Breckland | 21,703 | 4.4 |
| Broadland | 23,496 | 1.9 |
| Great Yarmouth | 21,058 | 0.8 |
| King's Lynn & West Norfolk | 22,360 | -1.3 |
| North Norfolk | 21,315 | 1.7 |
| Norwich | 24,356 | 5.3 |
| South Norfolk | 27,371 | 1.0 |
| Norfolk | 23,378 | 1.9 |
| East of England | 29,573 | 0.8 |
| England | 28,103 | 0.7 |

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2015, ONS – Table 8.7a

- 5.3 A higher than average number of families in work (60,200 families) are claiming Working Tax Credit (WTC) – 73% (68% nationally). 39% (40% nationally) of those claiming WTC also receive Childcare Tax Credit.
- 5.4 In Norfolk 5.6% of families are Lone parents. This is lower than national average of 7.1%. Nationally 68% of Lone Parents are working – a rise of 20% since 1996.
- 5.5 A higher percentage of women work part-time in Norfolk (23.8%) than both the national (21.3%) and East of England (22.9%) average. More women are self-employed in Norfolk (6.1%) than in England (5.7%).
- 5.6 Of the rural population in Norfolk, around 47,400 people are income deprived, (42.7% of the total across the county). The number of people receiving out of work benefits (JSA and IB) in rural areas is around 19,100, (41.7% of the Norfolk total).

5.7 Children in workless households

The proportion of Norfolk children (children aged under 16) living in workless households in 2013 is 10%, which means that an estimated 13,000 children live in workless households. This has improved since 2011, when an estimated 19,000 children lived in workless households (ONS Workless Households 2013 statistics Table C).

5.8 Child Poverty Rates

- The England rate for children living in low-income families is 18%
- The East of England regional rate for children living in low-income families is 14.7%
- The Norfolk rate for children living in low-income families is 16% estimated at 26,980 children

The overall child poverty rate for Norfolk masks particular hotspots in the county where child poverty is a more serious issue. Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn & West Norfolk each have higher rates of child poverty than the Norfolk average.

Table 2: Percentage of children in low-income families

| Children (all dependent children under 20) living in low-income families (estimated), 2011 | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| | % | Number |
| Breckland | 14.6 | 3,835 |
| Broadland | 8.8 | 2,105 |
| Great Yarmouth | 23.1 | 4,805 |
| King's Lynn & West Norfolk | 16.2 | 4,775 |
| North Norfolk | 13.6 | 2,260 |
| Norwich | 25.5 | 6,670 |
| South Norfolk | 10.1 | 2,530 |
| Norfolk | 16.0 | 26,980 |
| East of England | 14.7 | 190,340 |
| England | 18.0 | 2,097,000 |

Source: HMRC Child Poverty 2013 statistics

5.9 Traveller Children

Estimates show that between 1,000 and 1,200 traveller children of school age either visit or live in Norfolk per year. This makes them one of the largest ethnic minority groups in Norfolk. Norfolk's non-white population is predominantly urban although migrant workers and travellers are more likely to live in rural areas.

5.10 Disabled children

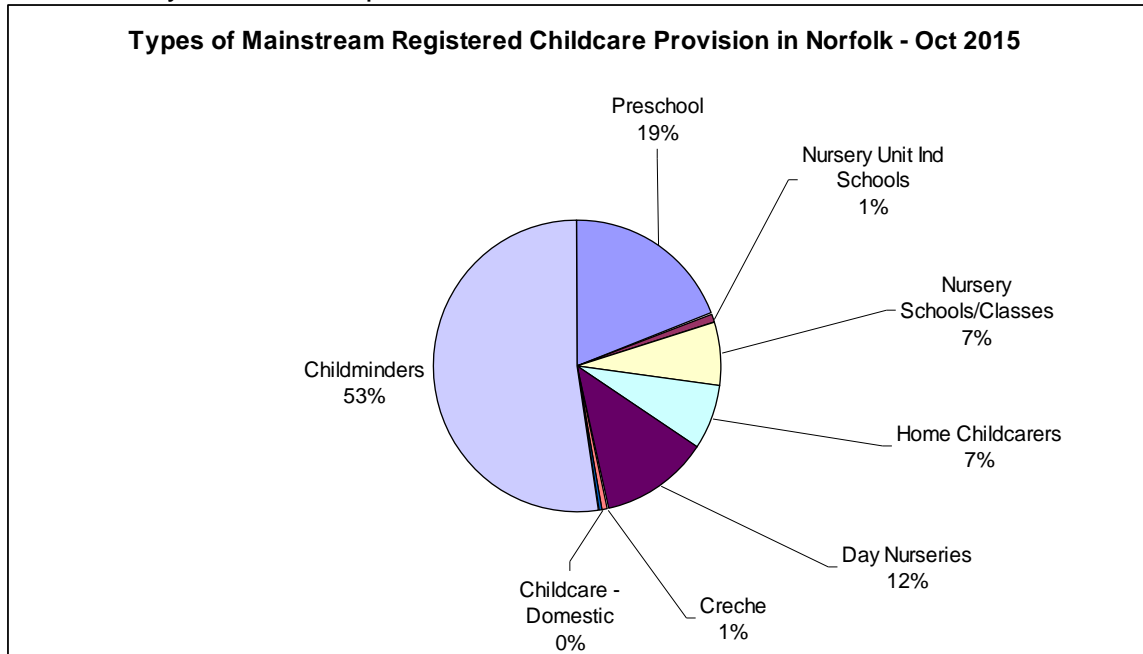
There are 2150 children aged 0 -18 on the Norfolk Register of Disabled Children and Young People database (October 2015) and of those 82 are aged 0-4 years.

5.11 Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or who have a statement or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) can access a free 2 year old childcare place.

5.12 The proportion of children aged under 16 in Norfolk in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (13.84% - 5,825 children) has risen and is higher than the nation average (12.65%) which also rose. (November 2014).

6. Supply - Assessment of Early Years and Childcare Provision

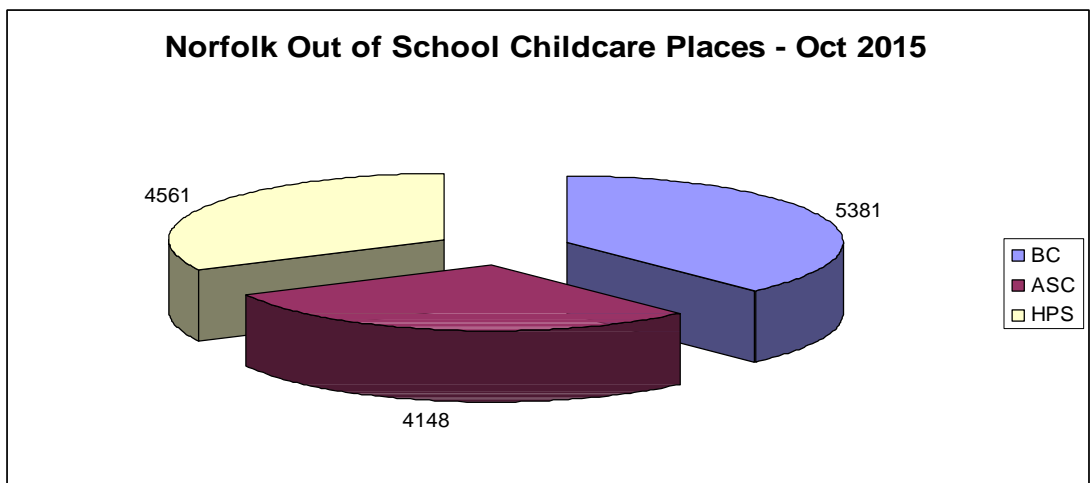
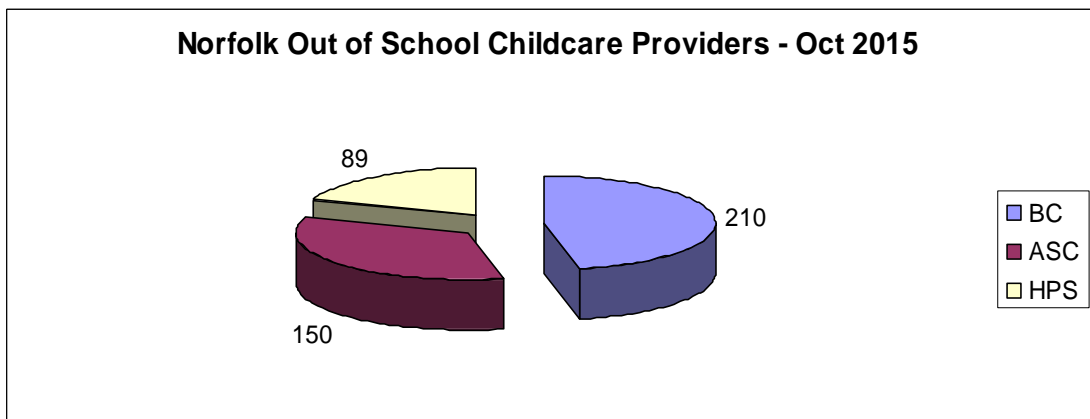
- 6.1 There is a balanced market of childcare provision in Norfolk with all sectors represented. Childminders (53%) represents the majority of providers in Norfolk – but not the majority of places. Pre-schools (19%) are the next biggest group of providers which are significant in terms of providing funded provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Day Nurseries represents 12% of the market.



Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

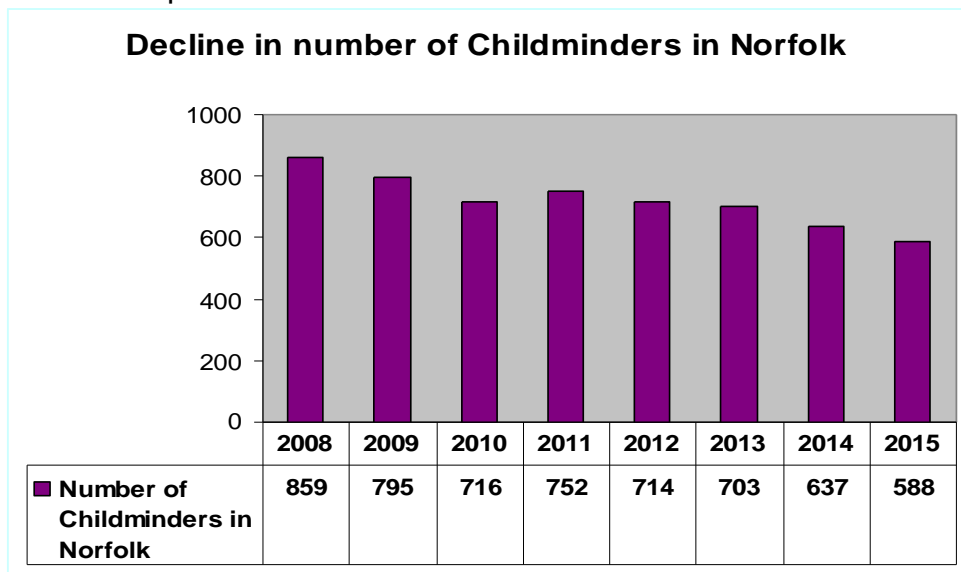
- 6.2 There are a total of 1,026 preschool providers in Norfolk and 15,825 places on the Early Years Register 0-5 year olds (October 2015).
- 361 PVI Group Settings (134 Day Nurseries, 11 Independent Schools & 216 Preschool Playgroups)
 - 588 Childminders, (of whom 3.35% are male), including 84 Non Public Childminders
 - 77 Nursery classes
- 6.3 Funded early learning and childcare supply: -
- Providers of preschool places vary their allocation of funded places depending on demand, so figures on 2, 3 and 4 year old places change daily.
 - There are a total of 20,934 funded 15 hour places in Norfolk
 - Providers tell us they have 6,143 are 2 year old funded places, which is an overall county surplus (October 2015) but more localised data shows there is a deficit of 2 year old places in specific areas
 - They have 14,791 3-4 year old places, which suggest a 6,597 place deficit.
 - Of all free early education accessed by 3 and 4 year olds in Norfolk, 50% was with private, voluntary and independent providers. This proportion is higher than the England average of 42%
- 6.4 Norfolk has 150 after school clubs, 210 breakfast clubs and 89 holiday play-schemes. This is a rise in afterschool and breakfast clubs but a drop in holiday playschemes in the last year. There is a spread of Out of School provision across the county.

Norfolk Out of School Childcare Provision - Aug 2015



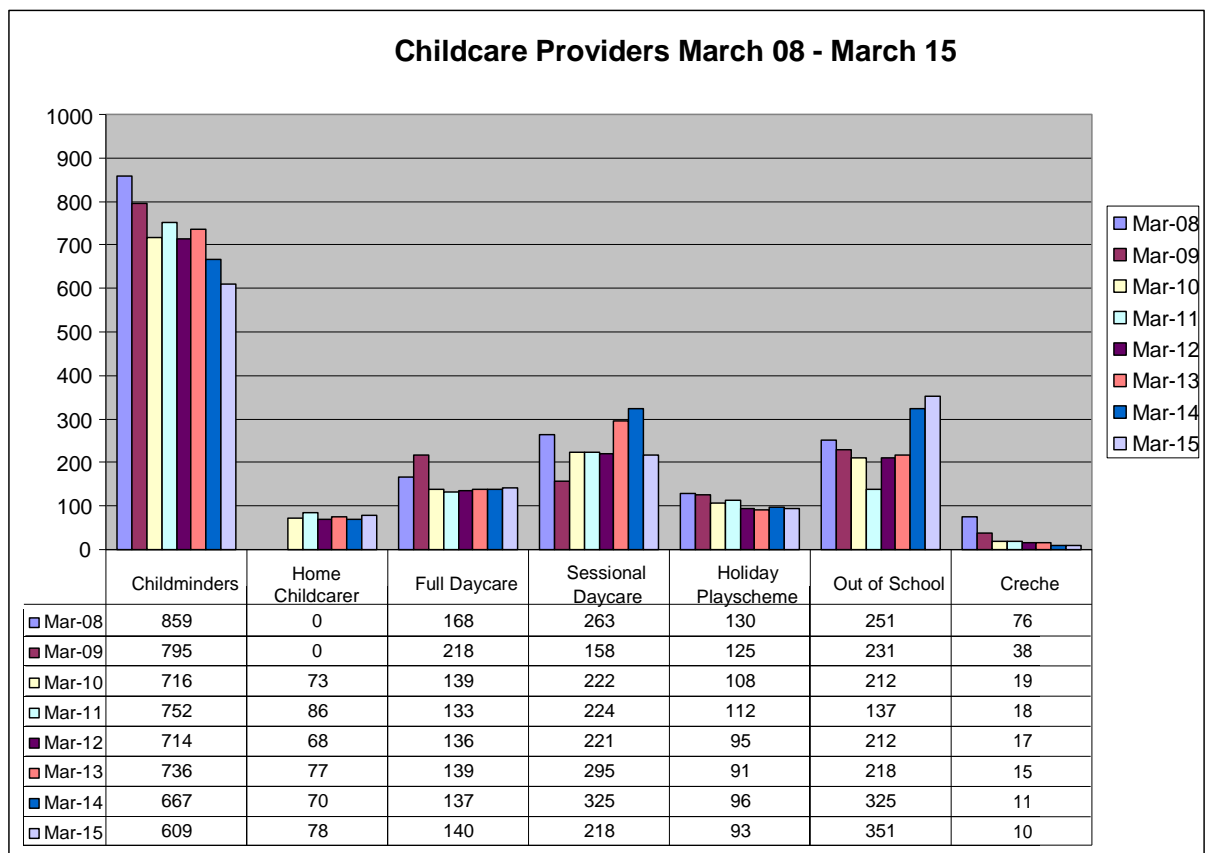
Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

- 6.5 Childminder numbers have been declining since 2008, with significantly more childminders resigning from Ofsted than registered with Ofsted, resulting in a net loss of places. This reflects a national trend. There has also been a decrease in Holiday Play-schemes and Sessional groups, but an increase in After School and Breakfast Club providers.



Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

6.6 Childminder agencies were introduced nationally in September 2014 and currently there are no agencies in Norfolk.



Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

6.7 Since September 2010, free provision for all 3 and 4 year olds has been available for 570 hours per year, which must be taken over at least 38 weeks - for example, 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. A year commences on the date a child becomes eligible for the free place and subsequent years start on the anniversary of this date. This is a universal offer.

6.8 The Government introduced free early education to 40% of 2 year olds in September 2014. The 2 year old places are provided based on the child's circumstances or on the family income. Eligibility for the free places is currently based on the criteria used for free school meals but also includes households earning under £16,190 and receiving Working Tax Credit, children receiving Disability Living Allowance and children who are looked after by the local authority.

6.9 A Children's Centre can offer a wide range of services to support families, this includes advice and access to local childcare. There is a spread of 53 Children's Centres across the county. Commissioned research in 2014 showed Norfolk's Children's Centres have a key role in helping parents and carers find suitable childcare to take up their free places (Insight Track).

- 6.10 **Take up of free early education provision among 2, 3 and 4 year-olds**
There are 9,370 two year olds in Norfolk and 33% are entitled to the free childcare offer, compared to the national average of 40%.
- 6.11 Norfolk had a target of 3,595 children taking a funded two year old place for summer 2015. During the summer term 2730 (76%) children took up a free place; there are currently 2,435 children for the autumn term, making good progress (73%) towards meeting the autumn 2015 target of 3287 (See Appendix 1).
- 6.12 In Norfolk, internal data sources show that there is 86% take up of 3 and 4 year old funding (See Appendix 2), although due to parental choice, not all 3 and 4 year olds will take up the full free entitlement.
- 6.13 Department for Education benchmarking of Take up trends among 3 and 4 year-olds demonstrate that the percentage of take-up of free provision in Norfolk is just below the national average and that of statistical neighbours. Take up of 2 year old childcare provision is intended to increase take up and parental demand for 3 and 4 year olds funded childcare.

Take up trends among 3 & 4 Year olds

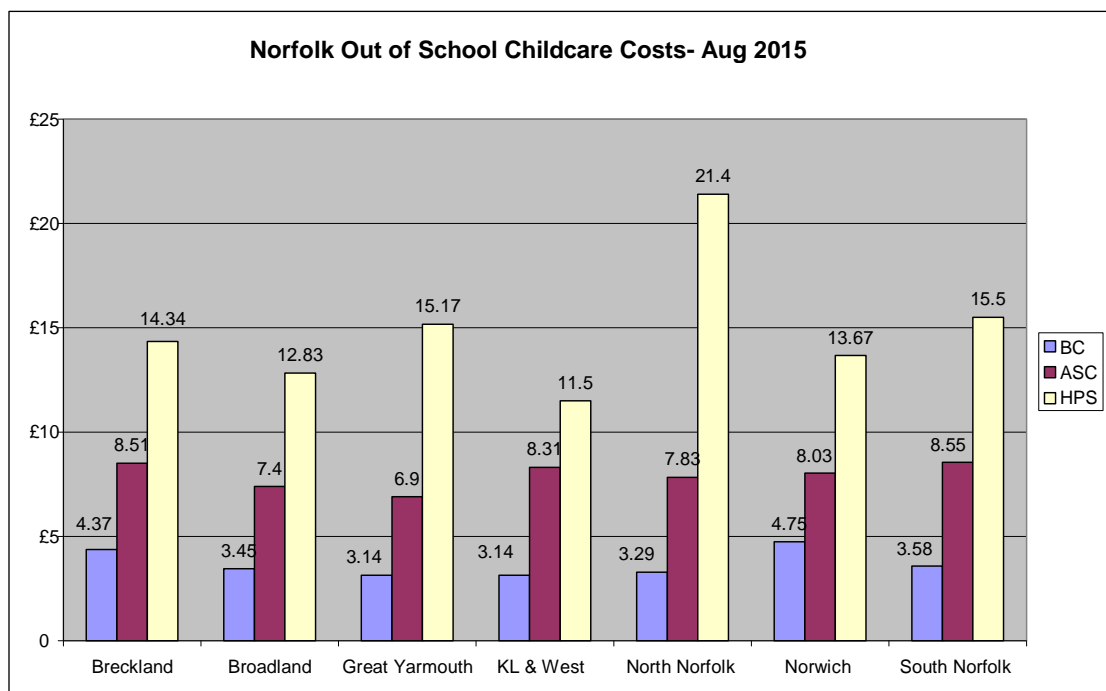
Figure 1

| 7 % Take up of Free Provision among 3 & 4 Year-olds Trend 2011-2013 | 8 2011 | 9 2012 | 10 2013 | 11 2014 |
|---|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 12 Norfolk | 13 95% | 14 96% | 15 97% | 16 96% |
| 17 Statistical neighbour average | 18 95% | 19 96% | 20 96% | 21 97% |
| 22 England | 23 94% | 24 95% | 25 96% | 26 97% |

Source: DfE Provision for children Under Five Years of Age – January 2015

- 6.14 **Costs and Affordability of Childcare**
Nationally there has been an above inflation increase in under-five childcare costs in the last year. This follows last years above inflation raise and typically childcare costs have increased by more than the average wage for several years according to the Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Costs Survey (2015). Parents living in the East of England pay more than any other region in Britain for childminder care at an average of £120 per week for 25 hours (£4.80 per hour).
- 6.15 The average cost of a childminder looking after a child under 2 is now £4.16 per hour across Britain. The average cost of a childminder for Norfolk is £3.80 (Oct 2015). This is a 5% increase from last year. They range from £2.40 - £7 per hour. Nurseries in the Eastern region are cheaper on average than the national average.
- 6.16 The average cost of an after-school club is now £48.18 per week across Britain. This has not risen. A parent with two children in an after-school club for 5 nights per week in Norfolk would have an annual bill of just over £3,000 for term time care.

Out of School Care Costs



Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

- 6.17 Parents receive financial help directly, through the childcare element of Working Tax Credit and through childcare vouchers. Working parents on low incomes can receive up to 70 per cent of their childcare costs up to a maximum of £175 per week for one child in childcare and £300 per week for two or more children. Working Tax Credits are subject to change under current Government reforms. In 2013, the percentage of families receiving Working Tax Credits and Childcare Tax credits in Norfolk was 38.12%, (up from 31.76% in 2011) and includes 38,720 children.
- 6.18 Providers of funded places for 2, 3 & 4 year olds receive funding from Norfolk County Council. Local Authority funding for the 2, 3 and 4 year old offer will come from the Early Years Block in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with the Schools Forum deciding on the level of funding through the single funding formula (SFF) for 3 to 4 year olds.
- 6.19 Revenue funding for the 2, 3 and 4 year old offer, is paid for the number of place filled in the previous financial year. The hourly rate of £4.85 for 2 year olds in Norfolk has been specified by the Government and is calculated to be in line with the average charge for childcare in the county. The Government is currently reviewing the rate for 3 and 4 year olds and has said it will be raised.
- 6.20 **Accessibility - Information Duty**
The Family Information Service (FIS) in Norfolk fulfils the Local Authorities duty to provide information to parents on childcare under section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006. They offer online and telephone support to families with children aged 0-19 or up to the age of 25 for children with additional needs.
- 6.21 Research commissioned by the Local Authority in 2014 showed some groups, particularly migrant groups, may require more help to access childcare.

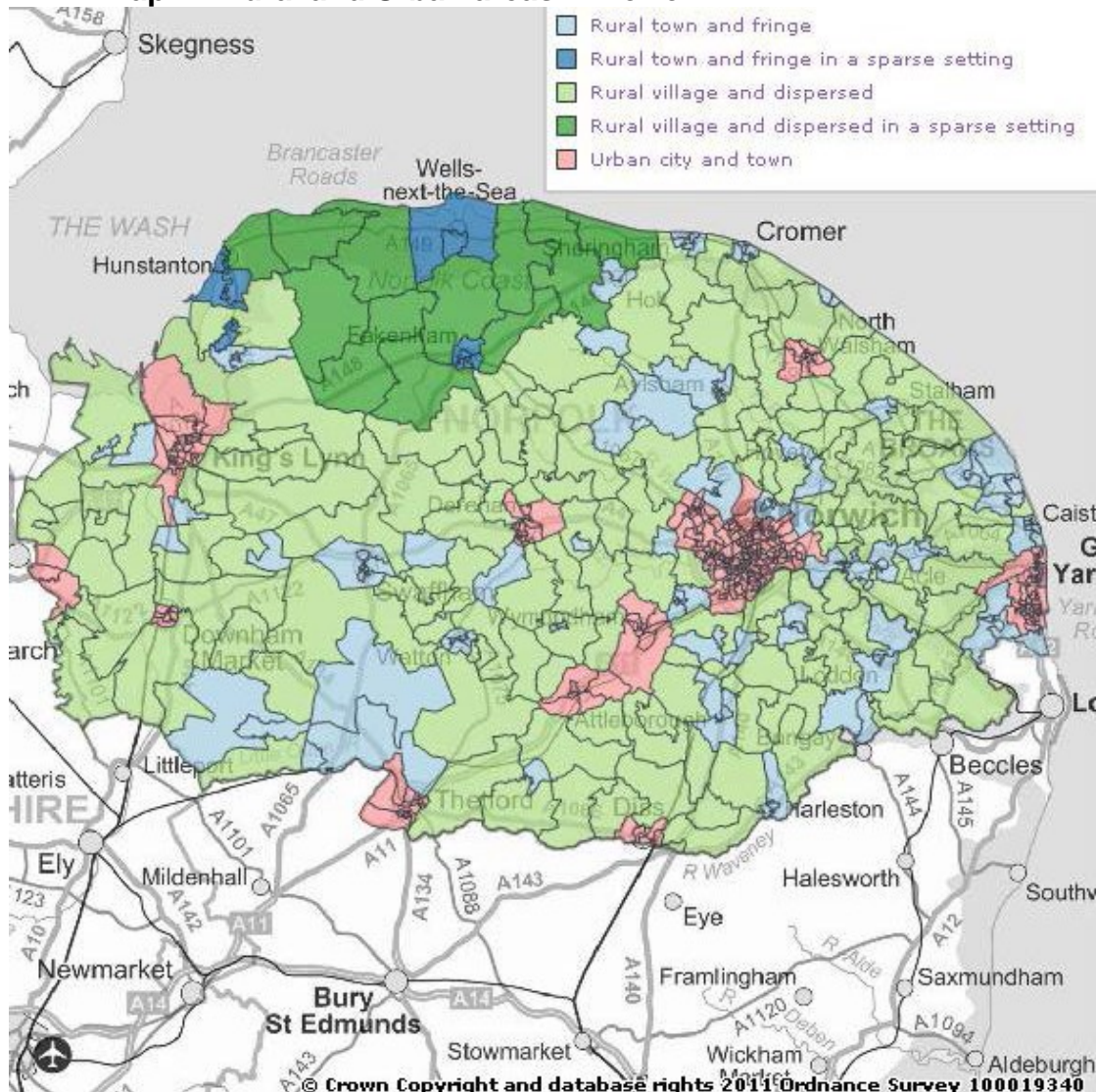
6.22 Flexibility

The 'Flexible Offer' is also a statutory duty. Local authorities need to ensure that childcare is available to meet the needs of working parents, usually 8 am – 6 pm. Analysis of opening hours suggest that overall childcare in Norfolk is flexible enough to meet the needs of working parents, though this is linked to the higher than average part-time workers in Norfolk. Childminders offer the most flexible childcare being open for an average of 51 hours per week.

6.23 Access

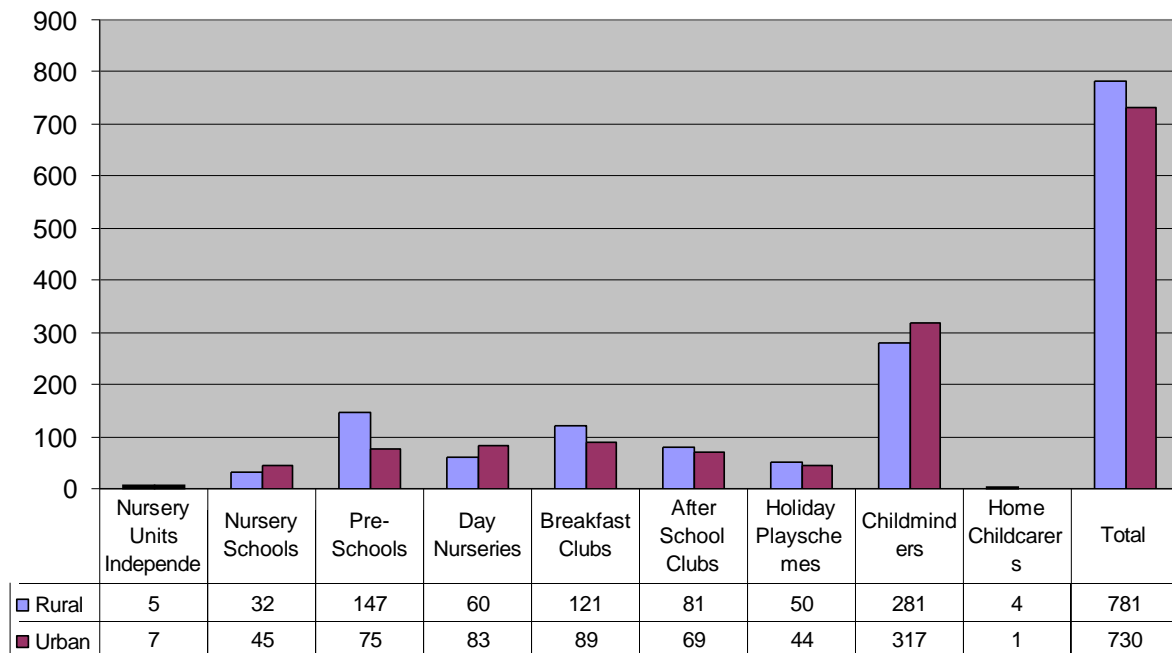
Over 52% of people in Norfolk live in an area defined as rural. (Norfolk Story) Access is often the most highlighted issue for rural communities.

Map 1 - Rural and Urban areas in Norfolk



6.24 Rural areas are poorly served by public transport. For those without a car, access to key services can be a key issue. The Census 2011 shows that in Norfolk 18.8% of households are without a car/van. This is lower than the England average of 25.8%. Research from 2010 showed that whilst in rural areas more households have access to a car/van (only 14.4% of rural households are without a car or van) there are some rural hotspots where up to 35.5% of households do not have a car/van, making access to services problematic.

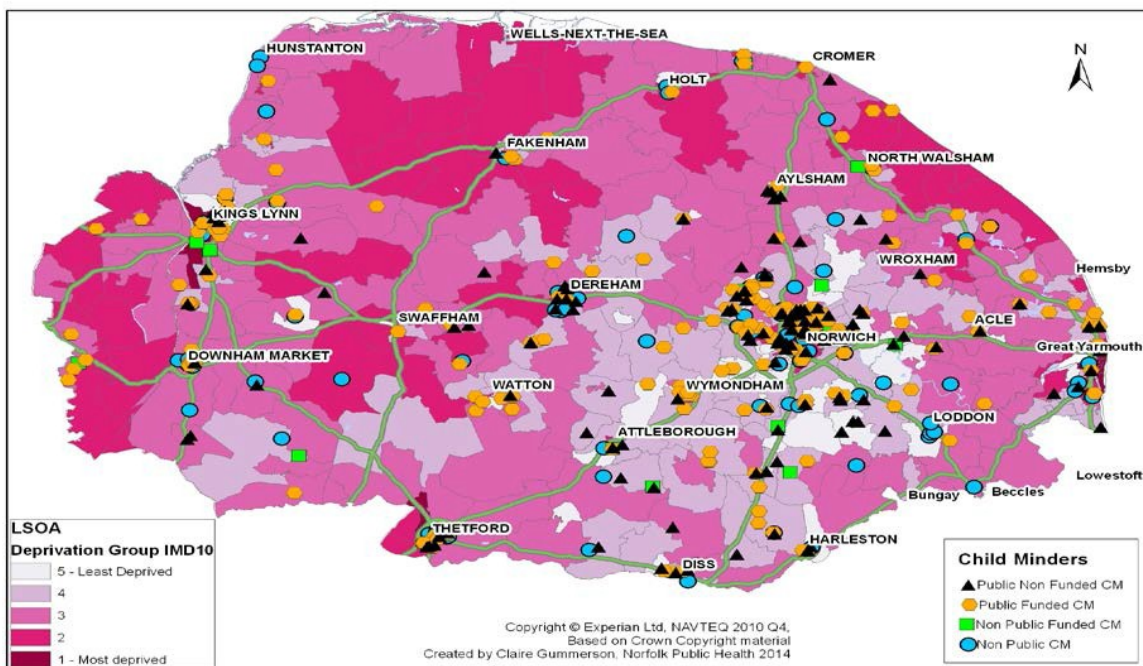
Childcare Providers located in Urban or Rural areas - 2015



Source: Norfolk Family Information Service 2015

- 6.25 In rural areas fewer services are delivered locally as usage is often unsustainable. (See Appendix 3 – Childminders in Norfolk showing the lack of childminders in rural areas). This is also an issue for most of the voluntary committee run preschool provision in Norfolk, which are the main childcare providers in rural areas.
- 6.26 Mapping of childminders in Norfolk against child poverty hot spots in 2014 identified a need to recruit more childminders in areas of rural poverty to offer greater choice.

Map 2 - Norfolk Map of Deprivation and access to Childminders Oct 2014



6.27 Disabled children

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires the Local Authority is to publicise their SEND *Local Offer* to families with a child with special needs. Norfolk publicises the services childcare providers offer for children with a disability in Norfolk.

6.28 Finding appropriate childcare can be a problematic to families of disabled children. Often cost is an issue as providers may ask for higher fees to be able to offer a higher staffing ratio and provider confidence in caring for the child is also a barrier.

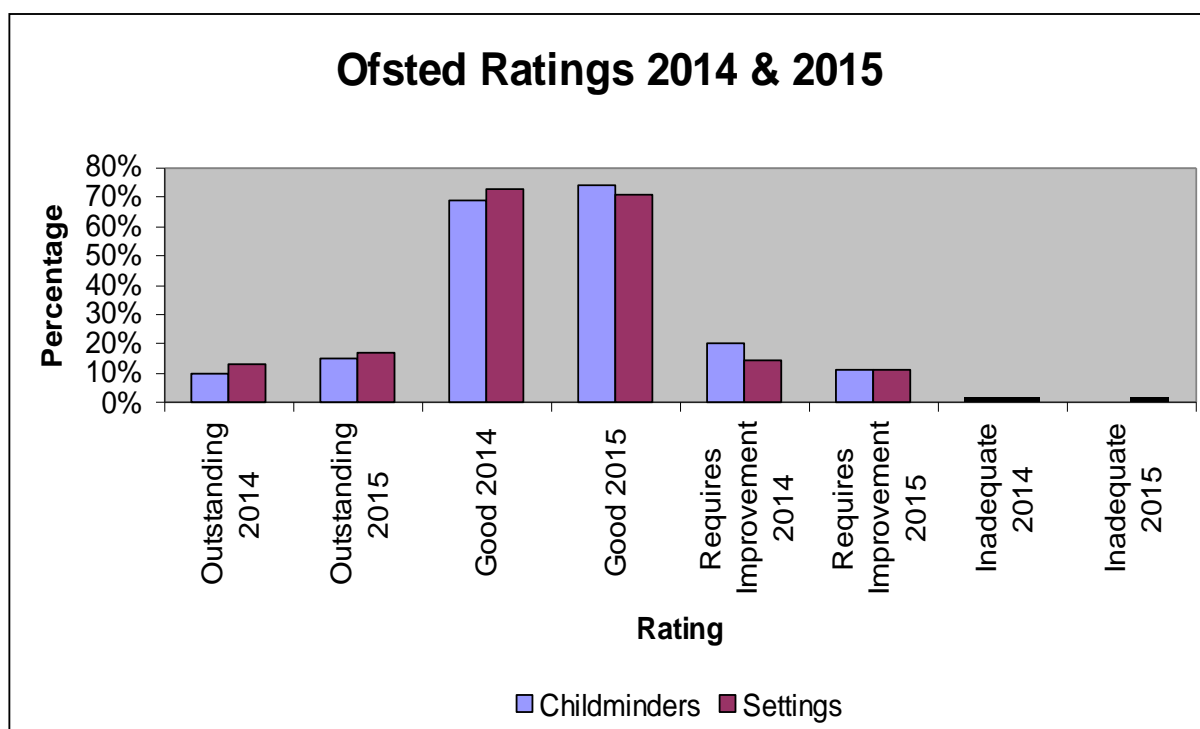
6.29 Quality of Childcare in Norfolk

Ofsted inspected 318 Other Settings – (which is made up by the provider types "Day Nursery", "Nursery Units of Independent Schools" and "Pre-School Playgroup") up to August 2015, 88.1% were good or outstanding.

- 227 (71.4%) are judged to be good
- 53 (16.7%) are judged to be outstanding
- 34 (10.7%) are judged to be requiring improvement
- 4 (1.3%) are judged to be inadequate

Of the 456 Childminders in Norfolk Ofsted inspected up to August 2015, 89% were good or outstanding.

- 338 (74.1%) are judged to be good
- 68 (14.9%) are judged to be outstanding
- 50 (11%) are judged to be requiring improvement
- 0 (0.0%) are judged to be inadequate



6.30 DfE Benchmarking analysis shows the percentage of childcare and early years settings rated good or outstanding by Ofsted August 2015, indicates that Norfolk at 82% compares well with the East of England average (83%) and out performs the national average (80%).

- 6.31 Norfolk County Council maintains and keeps up to date local information about Providers who are in receipt of funding to deliver the free entitlement to eligible children. A Local Agreement sets out the conditions Providers must comply with in order to receive funding to provide free entitlement to early years education and childcare.
- 6.32 Only 'Good' or 'Outstanding' providers can care for funded two year old children, unless there is a sufficiency reason for needing places with providers 'Requiring improvement'. In Norfolk, 83% of 2 year old PVI providers are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

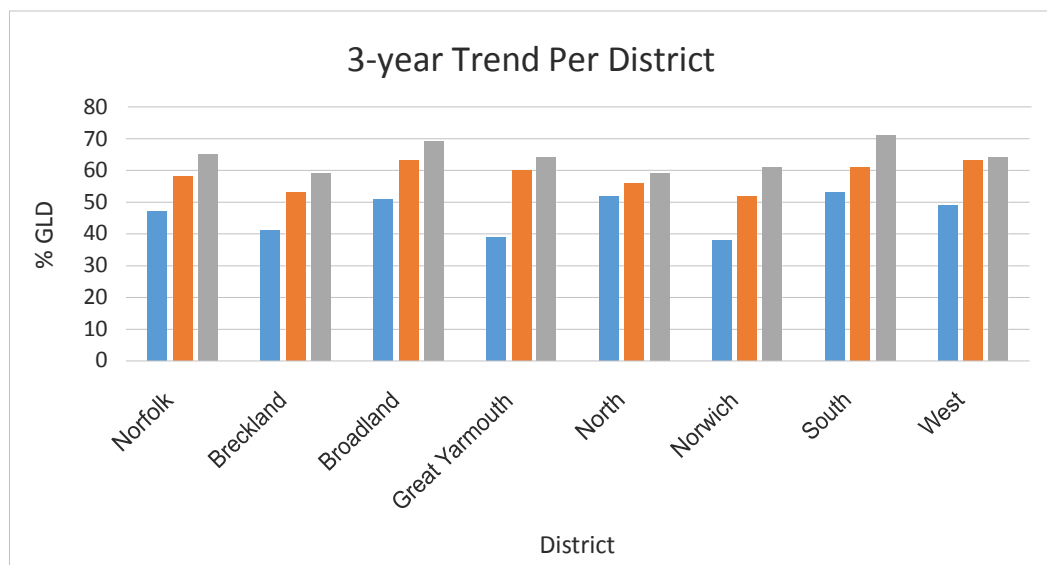
7. Consultation with parents and providers

- 7.1 The Family Information Service has consulted with parents and providers regarding the sufficiency of childcare and the introduction of the 30 hours free childcare for 3 to 4 year olds in September 2017.
- 7.2 A survey carried out with parents at a county event in July 2015 found:
- An overall majority welcomed the introduction of the 30 free hours
 - 60% said they would increase their working hours
 - 60% would prefer fewer hours per week all year round than 38 weeks at 30 hours
 - 66% felt there was sufficient childcare in Norfolk
 - 31% felt there was a lack of provision, especially childminders
 - A small percentage identified a shortage of Out of School care and childcare for children with a disability
- 7.3 An online parental survey is being carried out currently focussing on the Kings Lynn area and the results will be added to this report in January 2016.
- 7.4 Several childcare providers wrote to the Local Authority in August to voice their concern at the current funding rate and saying that although they have agreed to provide funded places until August 2016 for existing children in their care, they will not continue to provide places in future because it is not sustainable.
- 7.5 An online questionnaire of providers was carried out in October 2015 for the North Norwich Parliamentary Constituency. The key findings are as follows:
- 75% of providers who completed it said they would not be able to provide 30 hours of funded provision. 12% said they could
 - 60% of those that could said they could provide between 11 – 15 hours extra. 40% said 1- 5 hours extra
 - 60% of those who said they could not provide additional funded hours said cost was the barrier. A further 4% said the scheme was underfunded
 - 28% said they had no capacity to offer more hours and said they would have to take fewer children, leaving others with no provision
 - 36% said they would prioritise fee paying families

8. Improving outcomes

- 8.1 By the age of five years old the youngest children in our schools are assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. The outcomes focus on a range of skills and stages of development. The measures include an overall outcome for children achieving a 'good level of development'.
- 8.2 As a result of Improvement measures introduced in 2013, Norfolk has seen a 19% rise in the numbers of children achieving a 'good level of development' and is now at 65%. This is still below the national average of 66% (2015), but the gap between Norfolk and National has closed from 6% to 1% over the past 3 years.

3 year trend in GLD per district – 2013/14/15



Further analysis of Foundation Stage Profile Data is contained within the 0-5 Early Learning Needs Analysis - September 2015



9. Managing the performance and quality of Norfolk's strategic approach to ensuring childcare sufficiency for 0-14 year olds

9.1 How the council can be assured it is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare:

Needs Analysis

- Audit the provision of places to meet the forthcoming introduction of 30 hours free childcare for 3 – 4 year olds and survey parental demand for it
- Understand the implications of the lower household income in Norfolk, and the importance of the affordability and cost of childcare for Norfolk families so that it is within reach and affordable
- Researching the impact of the introduction of a Living Wage for the childcare workforce whilst also sustaining the 0 – 14 childcare market
- Consider the predicted rise in population figures and in particular the rise in relation to new housing when planning both current and future childcare provision

Performance

- Monitor Early Years Foundation Stage profile data, to understand how we are performing when children start school compared to statistical neighbours and the national average
- By receiving reports on the strategic approach for the sufficiency of childcare places
- By monitoring take up trends among 2, 3 and 4 year-olds, Norfolk can compare performance of the percentage of take-up of free provision in Norfolk
- Understand and monitor the Early Help and Schools section of the Children Services Improvement Plan to gauge the impact on improved outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities

Quality

- By monitoring and securitising the quality of childcare in Norfolk we can compare performance against statistical neighbours and national averages
- Focus on improving quality in areas of deprivation, working alongside Children's Centres and Early Help to improve take up of good and outstanding early education provision
- Priorities detailed in Norfolk's Early Learning Strategy and recommendations in the 0-5 Needs Analysis

Communication

- Communicate to parents and carers how they can access free entitlement to childcare, financial support through tax credits and where childcare can be accessed
- Ensure the benefits of childcare are communicated to parents and carers so that they can make informed decisions about childcare with good quality information

Background Reports

Childcare Cost Survey 2015 – Family & Childcare Trust :-

<http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-cost-survey-2015>

Childcare Survey - Norfolk County Council July 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399958/RR444-Childcare_information_for_parents.pdf

Childminder Needs Analysis October 2014 – Norfolk County Council

- Included in Norfolk County Council Childcare Sufficiency Report 2014

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/74CB2FB0C23D4B5FBA88D313B639A00C>

[0-5 Early Learning Needs Analysis – Norfolk County Council September 2015](#)

[Early Learning Strategy – Norfolk County Council September 2015](#)

'Enabling working parents?' – Citizens Advice July 2015: -

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/policy/policy-research-topics/families-policy-research/enabling-working-parents/>

Commissioned Research findings – 2 YO Take Up 2014 Insight Track

Norfolk's Story August 2014: -

www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/Custom/Resources/NorfolkStory.pdf

Appendix 1 – Take up of 2 year old funded entitlement

Summer 2015 Data

Claim Period: 01/04/15 to 31/08/15

26-Aug-15

| | DWP Eligible Children | Total Take Up to Date | % Take Up |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| DWP Target | 3595 | | |
| | | 2730 | |
| Applications Received - To be processed | | 0 | |
| TOTAL (per Criteria) | | 2730 | 76% |
| TOTAL plus Local Criteria and Out of County | | 2802 | |

Breakdown By Children Centre Lots

| Lot | District Council | DWP | Take Up | Take Up |
|--|------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Acle Area (Marshes) | BRO | 43 | 29 | 67% |
| Attleborough | BRE/STH | 66 | 59 | 89% |
| Bowthorpe, West Earlham & Costessey | NOR | 159 | 120 | 75% |
| Caister | GY | 62 | 54 | 87% |
| CFM | BRO/NOR | 163 | 110 | 67% |
| City & Eaton | NOR | 131 | 78 | 60% |
| Cromer and Mundesley | NTH | 74 | 61 | 82% |
| Dereham Central, South and Litcham | BRE | 151 | 138 | 91% |
| Diss | STH | 62 | 55 | 89% |
| Downham Market and Methwold | BRE/KL&WN | 122 | 67 | 55% |
| Drayton & Taverham and Hellesdon | BRO | 84 | 69 | 82% |
| Earlham Early Years | NOR | 114 | 97 | 85% |
| East City & Framlingham Earl | NOR/STH | 137 | 112 | 82% |
| Fakenham Gateway | BRE/NTH/KL&WN | 57 | 48 | 84% |
| Great Yarmouth and Greenacre | GY | 248 | 208 | 84% |
| Harleston and Loddon | STH | 80 | 56 | 70% |
| Hunstanton Area | KL&WN | 58 | 37 | 64% |
| Long Stratton | STH | 38 | 29 | 76% |
| Nar and St Clements | KL&WN | 144 | 108 | 75% |
| North City | NOR | 138 | 77 | 56% |
| North Walsham | NTH | 55 | 40 | 73% |
| Reepham and Aylsham | BRE/BRO/NTH | 73 | 66 | 90% |
| Seagulls and Gorleston & Hopton | GY | 160 | 135 | 84% |
| Signpost | KL&WN | 128 | 101 | 79% |
| Spixworth & Sprowston | BRO/NOR | 71 | 47 | 66% |
| Stalham & Sutton and Broadland | NTH | 70 | 56 | 80% |
| Swaffham | BRE/KL&WN | 55 | 45 | 82% |
| Thetford and Thetford Drake | BRE | 180 | 132 | 73% |
| Thorpe Hamlet and Dussindale | BRO/NOR | 133 | 92 | 69% |
| Trinity | GY | 46 | 41 | 89% |
| Vancouver (incl. Springwood) | KL&WN | 107 | 80 | 75% |
| Village Green | GY | 49 | 37 | 76% |
| Watton | BRE | 51 | 47 | 92% |
| Wells and Corpusty & Holt and Stibbard | NTH | 101 | 74 | 73% |
| West Walton and Emneth | KL&WN | 81 | 52 | 64% |
| Wymondham and Hethersett | STH | 104 | 73 | 70% |
| Children living outside of Norfolk | | | 14 | |
| Local Criteria | | | 58 | |

Take Up >100% - Children excluded from DWP data

Appendix 2 – 3 and 4 year old funded entitlement take up - summer 2015

Summer 2015 Data

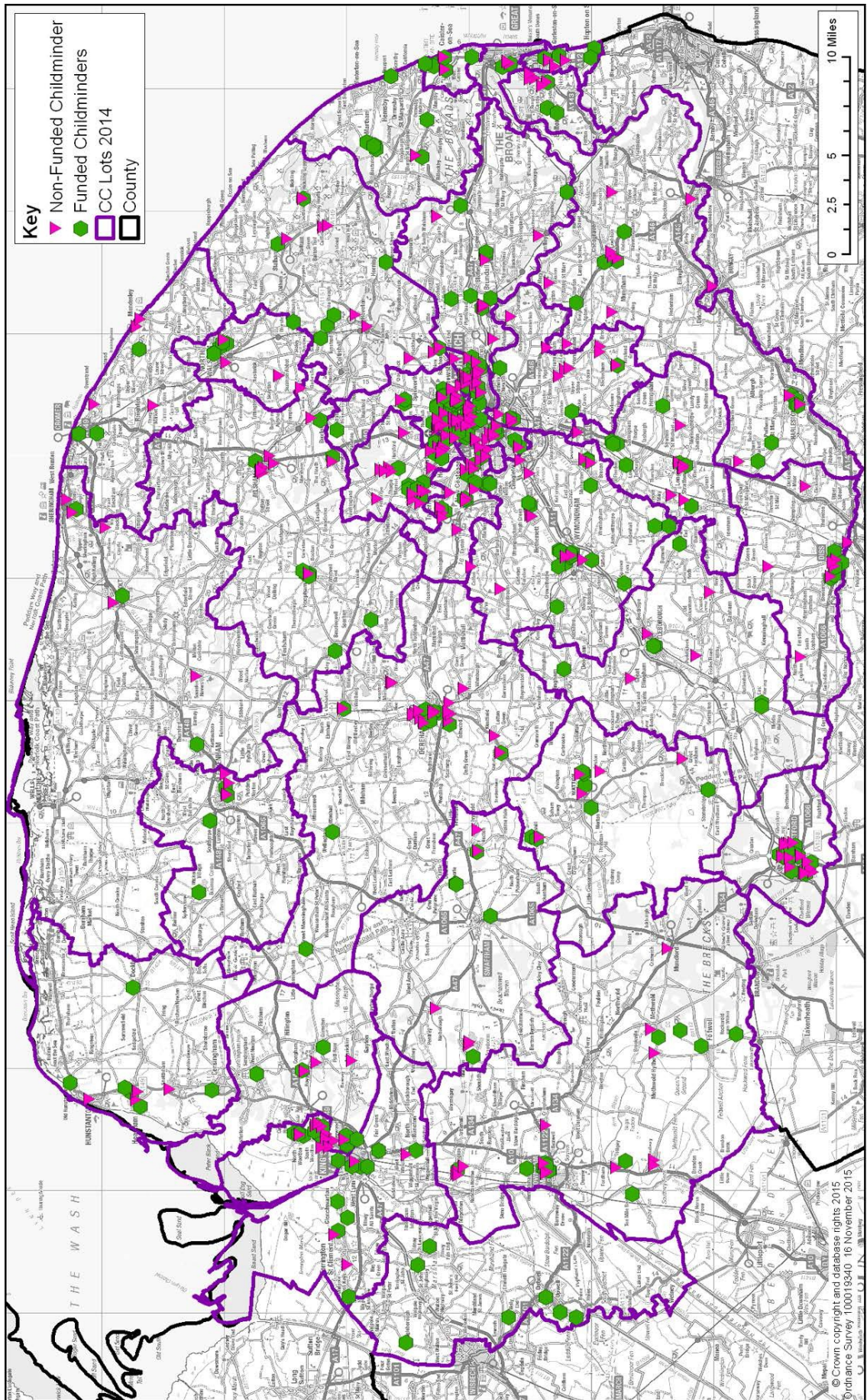
Claim Period: 01/04/15 to 31/08/15
09-Oct-15

| | Eligible Children | In Receipt of Early Edu | % Take Up | Not in Receipt of Early Edu | % Not in Receipt |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL Number of Eligible Children | 21388 | | | | |
| TOTAL Take Up | | 18319 | 86% | 3069 | 14% |

Breakdown By Children Centre Lots

| Lot | District Council | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Acle Area (Marshes) | BRO | 472 | 435 | 92% | 37 | 8% |
| Attleborough | BRE/STH | 646 | 575 | 89% | 71 | 11% |
| Bowthorpe, West Earlham & Costessey | NOR | 925 | 781 | 84% | 144 | 16% |
| Caister | GY | 273 | 247 | 90% | 26 | 10% |
| CFM | BRO/NOR | 652 | 556 | 85% | 96 | 15% |
| City & Eaton | NOR | 850 | 659 | 78% | 191 | 22% |
| Cromer and Mundesley | NTH | 348 | 334 | 96% | 14 | 4% |
| Dereham Central, South and Litcham | BRE | 1057 | 918 | 87% | 139 | 13% |
| Diss | STH | 501 | 374 | 75% | 127 | 25% |
| Downham Market and Methwold | BRE/KL&WN | 827 | 726 | 88% | 101 | 12% |
| Drayton & Taverham and Hellesdon | BRO | 711 | 710 | 100% | 1 | 0% |
| Earlham Early Years | NOR | 499 | 411 | 82% | 88 | 18% |
| East City & Framlingham Earl | NOR/STH | 754 | 618 | 82% | 136 | 18% |
| Fakenham Gateway | BRE/NTH/KL&WN | 326 | 289 | 89% | 37 | 11% |
| Great Yarmouth and Greenacre | GY | 915 | 686 | 75% | 229 | 25% |
| Harleston and Loddon | STH | 541 | 416 | 77% | 125 | 23% |
| Hunstanton Area | KL&WN | 362 | 300 | 83% | 62 | 17% |
| Long Stratton | STH | 339 | 299 | 88% | 40 | 12% |
| Nar and St Clements | KL&WN | 692 | 592 | 86% | 100 | 14% |
| North City | NOR | 564 | 458 | 81% | 106 | 19% |
| North Walsham | NTH | 319 | 316 | 99% | 3 | 1% |
| Reepham and Aylsham | BRE/BRO/NTH | 493 | 485 | 98% | 8 | 2% |
| Seagulls and Gorleston & Hopton | GY | 762 | 648 | 85% | 114 | 15% |
| Signpost | KL&WN | 524 | 467 | 89% | 57 | 11% |
| Spixworth & Sprowston | BRO/NOR | 612 | 575 | 94% | 37 | 6% |
| Stalham & Sutton and Broadland | NTH | 447 | 420 | 94% | 27 | 6% |
| Swaffham | BRE/KL&WN | 633 | 439 | 69% | 194 | 31% |
| Thetford and Thetford Drake | BRE | 827 | 669 | 81% | 158 | 19% |
| Thorpe Hamlet and Dussindale | BRO/NOR | 796 | 663 | 83% | 133 | 17% |
| Trinity | GY | 338 | 315 | 93% | 23 | 7% |
| Vancouver (incl. Springwood) | KL&WN | 638 | 568 | 89% | 70 | 11% |
| Village Green | GY | 356 | 306 | 86% | 50 | 14% |
| Watton | BRE | 429 | 354 | 83% | 75 | 17% |
| Wells and Corpusty & Holt and Stibbard | NTH | 591 | 538 | 91% | 53 | 9% |
| West Walton and Emneth | KL&WN | 436 | 278 | 64% | 158 | 36% |
| Wymondham and Hethersett | STH | 933 | 894 | 96% | 39 | 4% |

Appendix 3 – Childminders in Norfolk



| | |
|---|---------------------|
|  | |
| Last Saved: 17 November 2015 | Scale: 1:400,000 |
| <h2>Funded & Non-Funded Childminders in Norfolk - November 2015</h2> <p>Ref: R:\GIS\GIS_2015\EarlyYears\Childminders\Funded_NonFunded_Childminders_November 2015_A4.mxd</p> | |
| <p>Norfolk County Council at your service</p> <p>Children's Services Business Processes csepublishing@norfolk.gov.uk</p> | |



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