

Stockport

2017 Childcare Sufficiency Report



Introduction

The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

Aims

This short report will provide information on the supply and demand for childcare in Stockport during Spring 2017 making comparisons where possible with the previous year's report. The report was also used to support the (LA) with the implementation in September 2017 of the Governments 30 hour childcare policy.

Objectives

- It will address the specific areas and references required by government guidance.
- It will where appropriate provide the data by Health Visitor areas. This is a change from reports in previous years when data was provided by Children's Centre areas
- This report uses data from a variety of sources which means that some data does not always directly correlate and the report shows trends based on the most up to date information available at the time.

Please note that in this report:

- Population figures are from office of national statistics (ONS) mid-2015
- Occupancy figures are from the January 2017 census returns from Early Years Providers
- The areas used in this report are the provisional Health Visitor areas and whilst they are close to the previous Children's Centre areas they are not an exact match therefore direct comparisons cannot be made to last year's sufficiency report.

Childcare Information in Stockport

Information on Ofsted registered early education and childcare providers is published as a web based directory. This incorporates information on the local offer of services for children and young people with special educational needs or disability (SEND). Parents wanting childcare are directed to use the comprehensive search engine which can be accessed on Stockport Councils website: www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare

Key Points Summary

Working Families-

- There has been a reduction in those families in Stockport claiming out of work benefits and an increase in the number of low income families in Stockport over the last 3 years (Table 1) – this could mean that more working parents are looking for childcare.
- Encouraging parents who can and want to go back to work is part of the Government's Social Mobility Policy. This is supported through the 30 hours extended childcare policy for three and four year olds which was implemented in September 2017.

Places and population.

- There has been a small population increase of 174 in the 0-4 age's population and 86 in the 5-7 ages and 453 in the 8-15 ages
- The number of childcare places available (0 to 4) has increased by 600 (table 2) this is a combination of some expansion and reconfiguration within existing as well as some additional new provision. This increase in places has enabled Stockport to meet the growth in population and the additional requirement for places from the high take up of the 2 year old places. Also to meet the needs of working parents.
- There is a slight increase in places per hundred in the 0-4 age range at +2.8 to 52 per hundred.
- There is a decrease in in number of places per hundred in the 5 to 7 provision - 17 to 42.2 This could be because this information is more difficult to audit to accurately reflect the many different types of after school provision. We will review in the 2018 census.
- There continues to be a decrease in numbers of Ofsted registered childminders in Stockport over the last 5 years. But the quality of Ofsted inspected and graded Childminders is now much higher with the majority receiving an Ofsted grade of good at first inspection. In addition over two thirds of childminders are offering funded early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds which is a large increase from in previous years. This is supporting their sustainability and the boroughs sufficiency requirements.
- Out of school provision -all areas of the borough have access to a school run or privately run after school provision except in Reddish North where out of school provision is available via childminders.

Occupancy –

- In most sectors childcare occupancy rates across the borough have increased slightly by nearly 3%—The occupancy levels are 78.31% (75.47% -2016 and 77.0% 2015). Although there are seasonal fluctuations. Occupancy levels are highest in the summer term.
- There has been a small increase in available spaces in the maintained sector. The occupancy levels in nursery schools and classes have reduced from last year to 72.4% from 78.9% - 2016 and 79.6% in 2015 (table 5 and 5.1).

- In Childminders, Day Nurseries and Oreschools occupancy has increased. This may be because they offer a more flexible offer to parents and 90% of the funded two year olds take up their places in these three sectors.
- Out of Schools and Holiday clubs are showing yearly fluctuations in their occupancy and this may be due to discrepancies in their occupancy returns. This may be because take-up of places can fluctuate as different holiday periods are more popular choice with parents. It could also reflect the variety of holiday play choices available to parents to access, many such as sport, dance and drama amongst others do not have to be registered with Ofsted

Conclusion

- Stockport has sufficient high quality childcare places available to meet the needs of working parents.
- The increased demand for places created by the two year old entitlement has filled some of the existing vacancies that were in the sector and helps to support sustainable childcare provision. Even with the increase in available spaces occupancy rates have stayed strong and this suggests Stockport has the flexibility in the market to be able to meet parental need.
- Some individual Health Visitor areas have higher numbers of childcare provisions and places than others and this is because there is more demand from working parents for childcare.
- Government initiatives such as the continuation of funded 2 year old early education places continues to drive the growth of affordable quality early years and childcare provision. During 2017 there will be a focus on the development of sufficient flexible provision to meet the implementation of the 30 hours funded childcare in September 2017.

Action Plan for 2018 – Key Priorities

1. We will continue to share information and data about instances of unmet demand with all childcare providers and encourage them to expand and provide flexible provision where appropriate.
2. We will continue to develop ways of accessing childcare data to maintain the integrity of the childcare sufficiency report.
3. We will continue to develop the quality of information available to parents about the supply of childcare for particular age ranges of children including the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision. Available at www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare
4. We will continue to ensure Stockport maintains high numbers of two year old children accessing their funded places and data will be analysed effectively to maximise take up.
5. We will plan for the implementation in September 2017 of 30 hours of funded childcare for eligible 3&4 year old children as appropriate in line with government policy.

Table 1 – Population Data

Health Visitor Area	Total Children by Age Group ¹			Percentage of 0 to 4 Year Olds Living in Households with	
	0 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 15	Out of Work Benefits	Low Income
	#	#	#	%	%
Abacus	1,559	917	2,040	23.40%	27.60%
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	1,354	713	1,663	20.70%	23.80%
Bramhall	1,024	689	2,069	6.80%	7.80%
Brinnington	851	445	970	45.80%	46.20%
Cheadle Hulme	1,302	856	2,190	5.00%	8.10%
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	1,242	605	1,302	18.50%	22.90%
Gatley & Heald Green	1,875	1,176	2,919	5.10%	10.90%
Hazel Grove (Stepping Hill)	839	506	1,523	5.40%	8.30%
Hazel Grove & High Lane	1,040	674	1,686	13.00%	14.20%
Heatons	1,212	678	1,712	5.40%	9.80%
Marple	988	625	1,622	8.60%	12.90%
Offerton/Stockport Central	1,718	1,034	2,346	20.10%	24.40%
Reddish	1,435	812	1,849	23.70%	25.50%
Werneth	1,548	1063	2,512	17.40%	20.70%
TOTAL 2017	17,987	10,793	26,403	15.50%	19.70%
TOTAL 2016	17,813	10,707	25,950	16.70%	18.70%

Table 1a

	Total Children by Age Group						Percentage of 0 to 4 Year Olds Living in Households with	
	0 to 4		5 to 7		8 to 15		Out of Work Benefits	Low Income
	#	+/	#	+/	#	+/	%	%
TOTAL 2015	17,585	369	10,549	308	25,785	-77	18.20%	18.30%
TOTAL 2016	17,813	210	10,707	158	25,950	165	16.70%	18.7%
TOTAL 2017	17,987	174	10,793	86	26,403	453	15.50%	19.70%

Table 1 above show the population of children in each age range and Table 1a provides a borough wide summary of the population over the past 3 years.

Table 1 gives more detail by the children's home location.

The population has grown slightly since the 2016 report. There was a similar population growth between 2013 and 2015.

The tables also shows the percentage of children across the borough of Stockport living in households with out of work/low incomes. The percentage of 0-4 year olds living on out of work benefits continues to reduce but the percentage of families on low incomes has risen by 1.0%.

Table 2 – Childcare Providers/schools and Childcare Places Offered

Health Visitor Area	Council Run Nursery & Academies		Childminder		Day nursery		Pre School		Independent School Nursery		TOTAL	
	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places
Abacus	5	220	22	71	4	306	4	95	0	0	35	692
Belmont & Lancashire Hill	5	212	33	102	1	59	2	0	0	0	41	373
Bramhall	3	140	10	30	4	114	1	35	0	0	18	319
Brinnington	3	200	12	48	1	28	3	90	0	0	19	366
Cheadle Hulme	4	160	23	75	4	238	3	83	5	425	39	981
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	4	278	20	66	4	330	1	40	0	0	29	714
Gatley & Heald Green	6	240	33	96	8	637	5	135	0	0	52	1108
Hazel Grove (Stepping Hill)	2	100	25	106	4	318	1	20	1	53	33	597
Hazel Grove & High Lane	4	140	18	60	4	237	5	130	0	0	31	567
Heatons	3	168	40	128	5	355	1	32	1	14	50	697
Marple	3	96	21	81	3	275	3	122	1	30	31	604
Offerton/Stockport Central	5	277	34	112	5	380	4	193	0	0	48	962
Reddish	4	314	35	111	4	160	1	44	0	0	44	629
Werneth	6	260	29	87	5	309	4	102	0	0	44	758
Borough Total 2017	57	2805 (+40)	355 (+36)	1173 (+3)	56 (+2)	3746 (+522)	38 (+3)	1121 (+32)	8 (+1)	522 (+167)	514 (-36)	9367 (+600)
Borough Total 2016	57	2,765	391	1,170	54	3,224	41	1,253	7	355	550	8,767

Table 2 shows that there has been an increase of 600 childcare places in the 0-4 years age range in Stockport since the 2016 report. This is a combination of growth in capacity within the existing childcare provision, particularly the Private Day Nurseries through their expansion or reconfiguration and the establishment of a large new provision.

This growth is in line with the small increase in the population and increase in demand for places created by the high levels of take up of two year old places.

There is a continuing reduction in the number of registered childminders. But of these registered childminders, more are active and offering more childcare places.

Table 3 – Childcare Places for 5 to 7 year olds:

Health Visitor Area	PVI Out of School Care		Holiday Provision		Childminder		TOTAL		Schools Run Before School		Schools Run After School	
	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places	Providers	Places
Abacus	2	70	0	0	22	81	24	151	5	230	2	95
Belmont & Lancashire Hill	2	30	0	0	33	120	35	150	5	306	2	96
Bramhall	2	130	2	75	10	30	14	235	3	180	3	180
Brinnington	1	30	1	15	12	48	14	93	3	180	0	0
Cheadle Hulme	7	172	6	135	23	75	36	382	2	170	1	100
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	5	90	2	53	20	72	27	215	7	237	2	35
Gatley & Heald Green	6	126	2	50	33	99	41	275	3	155	3	116
Hazel Grove (Stepping Hill)	7	165	4	120	25	105	36	390	1	40	1	60
Hazel Grove & High Lane	2	24	1	14	18	63	21	101	1	50	1	50
Heatons	3	110	2	30	40	126	45	266	2	70	3	57
Marple	5	109	4	89	21	81	30	279	2	155	2	155
Offerton/Stockport Central	4	104	1	50	34	111	39	265	7	320	3	145
Reddish	1	30	1	16	35	114	37	160	4	403	1	20
Werneth	3	110	2	70	29	96	34	276	4	198	4	213
Borough Total	50	1300	28	717	355	1221	433	3238	49	2694	28	1322

Childcare for Older children

There are many models of delivery for before and after school provision for 5-11 year olds such as school run and private after school clubs, on and off school sites and childminders who often provide a school pick-up service.

Table 3 shows that there is good distribution of out of school provision across the borough. Many schools are providing before and after school provision and there has been a growth in breakfast clubs since 2016. School run provision is not required to be registered separately with Ofsted and places may be available and fluctuate by need. School run before and after school provision is usually only available term time and for 38 weeks of the year.

Private, voluntary and independent holiday provision including childminders is available during the school holidays.

There is also many sports, drama, music and activity clubs available for short periods during the school holidays. These are often exempt from Ofsted registration and not included in this report but they are a valuable resource are used by working parents to provide childcare during the school holidays.

Childcare for 11 to 14 year olds generally does not relate to meeting the needs of working parents and tends to lean heavily towards informal activity based sessions usually in the holidays or early evenings.

In addition parents often change their working pattern to help them manage their childcare arrangements, working flexibly, taking holidays and using informal childcare such as grandparents or friends.

Table 4 – Childcare Places Comparison to Population

Table 4 does not include school breakfast club places in the 5-7 age range. This was to avoid double counting of places.

Health Visitor Area	Under 5 (0 to 4)			5 to 7 year olds		
	Places	Population	Places per 100	Places	Population	Places per 100
			#			#
Abacus	692	1,559	44.3	246	917	26.8
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	373	1,354	27.5	246	713	34.5
Bramhall	319	1,024	31.1	415	689	60.2
Brinnington	366	851	43	93	445	20.9
Cheadle Hulme	981	1,302	75.3	482	856	56.3
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	714	1,242	57.4	250	605	41.3
Gatley & Heald Green	1,108	1,875	59	391	1,176	33.2
Hazel Grove (Stepping Hill)	597	839	71.1	450	506	88.9
Hazel Grove & High Lane	567	1,040	54.5	151	674	22.4
Heatons	697	1,212	57.5	323	678	47.6
Marple	604	988	61.1	434	625	69.4
Offerton/Stockport Central	962	1,718	56	410	1,034	39.7
Reddish	629	1,435	43.8	180	812	22.2
Werneth	758	1,548	48.9	489	1,063	46.0
TOTAL 2017	9,367	17,987	52	4560	10,793	42.2
TOTAL 2016	8,767	17,813	49.2	6388	10,707	59.2

Table 4- shows a slight increase in places available per 100 children in the 0-4 age range since 2016. This was expected as we have had government agendas introduced that have brought additional children to the childcare market such as funded 2 year olds and the soon to be introduced 30 hours entitlement.

Demand for childcare places may also be generated because of some unknown population growth created from local housebuilding programmes. For example new houses are built and families move in wanting childcare. But this is not reflected in the population data because it the most recent report is ONS mid-year 2015.

Demand for childcare could also increase with changes in benefit entitlements. There may also be increased demand from Stockport families who are now in work as indicated by reducing numbers of 0-4 year olds living in families with out of work benefits.

Table 5 - Average Occupancy by Health Visitor area

Health Visitor Area	Council Run Nursery		Childminder		Day nursery		Pre School		Independent Schools Nursery		Independent Schools Nursery		Health Visitor Area Average		Out of School Care	Holiday Provision
	Providers	Occupancy %	Providers	Occupancy %	Providers	Occupancy %	Providers	Occupancy %	Providers	Providers	Occupancy %	Providers	Occupancy %			
Abacus	5	58.17%	22	77.94%	4	86.88%	4	90.18%	n/a	n/a	78.29%	63.23%	n/a			
Belmont & Lancashire Hill	5	66.58%	33	82.20%	1	100.00%	2	50.00%	n/a	n/a	74.70%	62.50%	n/a			
Bramhall	3	88.06%	10	91.67%	4	95.56%	1	100.00%	n/a	n/a	93.82%	69.44%	n/a			
Brinnington	3	60.83%	12	77.78%	1	71.43%	3	81.67%	n/a	n/a	72.93%	n/a	70.59%			
Cheadle Hulme	4	83.10%	23	83.33%	4	98.28%	3	77.37%	5	83.30%	85.08%	74.81%	86.67%			
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	4	39.63%	20	76.19%	4	72.62%	1	55.00%	n/a	n/a	60.86%	45.83%	78.57%			
Gatley & Heald Green	6	81.25%	33	78.26%	8	78.44%	5	88.87%	n/a	n/a	81.71%	18.75%	80.00%			
Hazel Grove (Stepping Hill)	2	98.13%	25	75.83%	4	83.69%	1	100.00%	1	n/a	89.41%	63.17%	86.39%			
Hazel Grove & High Lane	4	68.75%	18	75.00%	4	62.87%	5	82.15%	n/a	n/a	72.19%	55.69%	75.00%			
Heatons	3	79.17%	40	70.69%	5	95.36%	1	93.75%	1	71.43%	82.08%	80.56%	75.00%			
Marples	3	92.08%	21	78.43%	3	85.24%	3	73.20%	1	66.67%	79.12%	97.92%	75.00%			
Offerton/Stockport Central	5	57.91%	34	74.40%	5	76.19%	4	76.49%	n/a	n/a	71.25%	96.67%	100.00%			
Reddish	4	66.60%	35	68.27%	4	75.54%	1	97.73%	n/a	n/a	77.04%	n/a	n/a			
Werneth	6	73.33%	29	80.21%	5	62.49%	4	95.56%	n/a	n/a	77.90%	16.67%	25.00%			
Borough Average 2017	57	72.40%	355	76.41%	56	81.76%	38	83.00%	8	73.80%	78.31%	62.10%	75.22%			
Borough Average 2016	57	78.90%	391	66.10%	54	76.80%	41	74.00%	7	80.00%	75.47%	80.30%	43.10%			

Occupancy levels in childcare provision fluctuates throughout the year, the highest occupancy levels are during the summer term. This is because there is one admission to school reception class in September for all children who are four. But nursery age children become eligible for a nursery place the term after their 2nd or 3rd birthday so there are 3 termly intakes into nursery class.

There is some capacity in all early years sectors and this will help to support sufficiency of places for the implementation of 30 hours funded childcare.

Table 5.1 Occupancy Rates Summary

Provider Type	Places		Occupancy*				Historic
	#	+/	2017 CSA	2016 CSA	2015 CSA	+/	2013 CSA
Council Run Nursery	2,805	40	72.40%	78.90%	79.60%	-3.50%	86%
Childminder	1,173	3	76.41%	66.10%	59.90%	10.31%	71%
Day nursery	3,746	522	81.76%	76.80%	81.80%	5.04%	71%
Pre-School	1,121	32	83.00%	74.00%	74.60%	9.00%	80%
Independent School Nursery	522	167	73.80%	80.00%	78.30%	-6.20%	n/a
Out of School Care	1,300	463	62.10%	80.30%	77.10%	-18.20%	70%
Holiday Provision	717	284	75.22%	43.10%	72.50%	32.12	54%

The above summary table at 5.1 shows that childminders, day nurseries and preschools have an increase in occupancy levels. This may be the impact of the 2 year old offer that continues to have high levels of take up. It could also be that the implementation of 30 hours extended childcare has increased the numbers of hours of childcare that parents are taking.

Average occupancy in schools is slightly below 2016 levels although by the summer term many schools have increased occupancy because of their Easter intake.

Further information about early education and childcare is available on our website

www.stockport.gov.uk/30hours

or to find Stockport childcare providers

www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare