

Stockport

2016 Childcare Sufficiency Report

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1.0 Introduction

The Local Authority 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).

In order to comply with this legislation local authorities should:

Take into account what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area and:

- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists.
- the state of the labour market
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise
- encourage schools in their area to offer out-of-hours childcare between 8.00am and 6.00pm and to offer 5 hour rather than 3 hour sessions
- encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.
- the legal entitlement to early education for around the 40% most disadvantaged two-year-olds and all three and four year olds

Local authorities should also report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.

Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. The report should include:

- a specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children, children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal credit, children with parents who work irregular hours, children aged two, three and four taking up early education places, school age children and children needing regular holiday care.
- information about the supply of and demand for childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision
- details of how gaps in childcare provision will be addressed

2.0 Aims and Objectives

Aims

This report will provide information on the supply and demand for childcare in Stockport making comparisons where possible with the 2013/14 and 2015 report.

It will outline actions for 2016/17 to support the sufficiency of childcare in Stockport

Objectives

- It will address the specific areas and references required by government guidance.
- It will where appropriate provide the data by areas that have previously been defined as Stockport's Children's Centre reach areas. This will enable a consistent comparison to previous years. To note there has been some Children's Centre boundary changes since the 2015 report; the extension of the Abacus reach area to include some of Ladybridge Park and the combining of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central. The Children's Centre reach area map below shows the borough of Stockport by these former Children's Centre reach areas
- It will provide an indication of quality and affordability of childcare in Stockport.
- It will provide recommendation for actions to support sufficiency of childcare in 2017

Methodology

The report uses data from a variety of sources which means that some data does not always directly correlate.

- Population figures are from office of national statistics (ONS) mid-2014
- Occupancy figures are from the providers January 2016 census returns
- Ofsted grades are from a report in September 2016

These limitations mean that the report shows trends based on the most up to date information available at the time.

Childcare Information in Stockport

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

Any changes to a childcare providers Ofsted registration details, including inspection grades, is updated daily through an electronic data transfer process between the local authority and Ofsted.

There is a portal on this website that allows individual childcare settings to update their details electronically and they are encouraged to do this on a regular basis. This information, which includes details of vacancies, costs, opening hours etc. is easily available and accessible to parents and professionals searching for childcare.

Parents who work irregular hours

Childminders within Stockport are often able to offer the most flexibility around opening hours. They can respond to meet parental need on an individual basis. This may mean that they can open earlier or later whereas childcare on non-domestic premises such as nurseries and

preschools may have restrictions around flexibility. Parents who work irregular hours can search for childcare providers who offer flexible opening times in the search criteria on the childcare information directory. www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare

Entitlement to free early education for two, three and four year olds

All three and four year olds are entitled to up to 570 hours per year of funded early education. In September 2013 the Government introduced an entitlement to 570 hours a year of free early education for two year olds, extended in September 2014 to up to 40% of two year old children who can access free early education if they meet certain eligibility criteria. The primary eligibility criteria is economic and Stockport consistently has over 90% of these eligible 2 year olds taking up their early education places.

The high level of 2 year old take up has been achieved through a managed expansion of two year old places in areas of identified need and with a variety of providers, such as day nurseries, preschools independent schools and maintained schools.

In addition, changes to government guidance has enabled all childminders Ofsted graded “good” and “outstanding” to offer funded early education places for the first time. This has created access to additional funded 2 year old places because nearly 50% of Stockport registered childminders offer funded early education places.

This has been the main area of growth in the childcare sector during 2015 and 2016.

In 2017 we anticipate that the childcare market will continue to grow and develop to meet the introduction of the 30 hours free childcare entitlement in September 2017.

30 Hours Free Childcare

From September 2017 funding for early education for 3 & 4 year old children is changing.

Existing Entitlement

All families with a 3 & 4 year old child will continue to be eligible for the universal offer of free early education of up to 15 hours a week term time or a total of 570 hours taken throughout the year.

From September 2017.

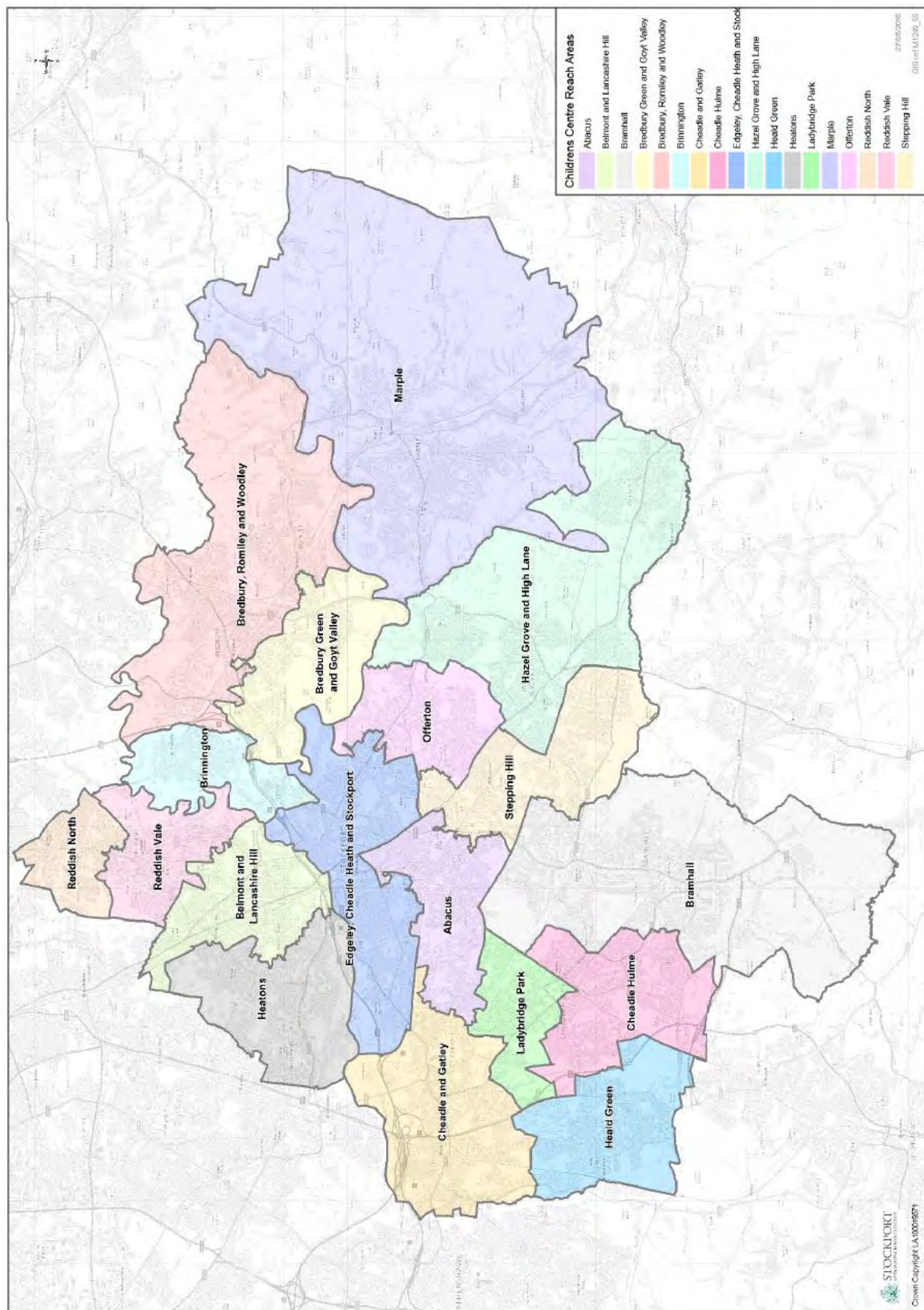
Some children will be eligible for extended free childcare. The extended free entitlement is a total of up to 30 hours of early education and childcare a week term time or a total of 1140 hours taken throughout the year. [Eligibility](#) criteria will apply.

Stockport has been awarded Early Implementer Innovator status for the 30 hours Free Childcare. This means that that we identify and support learning to overcome any barriers to parents taking up the 30 hours free childcare in September 2017.

Stockport Local authority will not be funding any 30 hour places until September 2017.

Stockport will work with local early year's providers to ensure that there is sufficient flexible childcare to enable maximum take up of the 30 hour entitlement.

Children's Centre Reach Area Map



3.0 Population:

Table 3.1 shows the number of children in each age range by their home location. It also shows the percentage of children across the borough of Stockport living in out of work/low income families. The population has grown slightly since the 2015 report. There was a similar population growth between 2013 and 2015. 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 0.4% pts.

The areas that have higher numbers of families on out of work benefits or on low incomes are where higher number of families are eligible for 2 year old funded places. These have been the areas of childcare expansion since 2013. The areas with a low percentage of families on low income/ out of work benefits are likely to be the areas that will have high numbers of children eligible for the 30 hours free childcare in September 2017.

3.1 Population by Children's Centre Reach Area:

CC Reach 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 ²		Low Income ³	
	#	+/-	#	+/-	#	+/-	%	+/-	%	+/-
Abacus	1,549	-20	871	+19	2,015	+67	24.5%	-5.4% pts	27.8%	-2.1% pts
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	1,064	+22	581	-6	1,322	+35	20.2%	-0.2% pts	20.9%	0.0% pts
Bramhall	1,005	+23	711	-23	2,060	-33	5.5%	-1.2% pts	4.9%	-0.6% pts
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	585	-52	417	+35	893	-32	22.2%	-2.3% pts	18.3%	-3.6% pts
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	981	-12	659	+19	1,540	-36	16.3%	-4.2% pts	17.9%	-1.7% pts
Brinnington	842	+5	433	-18	917	+8	46.3%	-4.6% pts	46.8%	-0.3% pts
Cheadle and Gatley	1,103	+35	653	+42	1,648	+28	5.9%	-1.7% pts	8.1%	0.5% pts
Cheadle Hulme	881	+55	533	-17	1,504	+19	7.4%	-0.6% pts	8.5%	1.5% pts
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	2,109	-16	1,056	+16	2,259	+51	23.9%	-1.2% pts	23.8%	1.2% pts
Hazel Grove and High Lane	1,071	+5	722	-6	1,635	+45	10.7%	-2.6% pts	14.5%	2.0% pts
Heald Green	749	+42	497	+19	1,263	+14	10.0%	0.2% pts	12.7%	0.4% pts
Heatons	1,201	+24	661	+52	1,660	-27	5.4%	-3.1% pts	9.3%	1.5% pts
Ladybridge Park	410	+23	252	0	655	+1	6.1%	-4.2% pts	5.8%	-4.1% pts
Marple	929	+31	644	+40	1,585	-2	8.1%	-1.1% pts	11.8%	0.7% pts
Offerton	805	+6	541	0	1,383	+20	23.0%	-5.5% pts	22.1%	-2.0% pts
Reddish North	929	+2	526	0	1,117	-18	24.8%	-2.1% pts	25.6%	3.1% pts
Reddish Vale	767	+28	427	+11	980	-15	22.8%	-1.0% pts	23.0%	-2.1% pts
Stepping Hill	833	+9	523	-25	1,514	+40	7.2%	0.5% pts	6.8%	1.5% pts
TOTAL	17,813	+210	10,707	+158	25,950	+165	16.7%	-2.5% pts	18.7%	0.4% pts

¹ Figures gathered from Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-2014 Population Estimates

² Number of Children living in Out-of-work Benefit Claimant Households (DWP data as at 31 May 2014)

³ Number of children living in families in receipt of CTC whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of IS or (Income-Based) JSA, divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by Child Benefit data 2013)

Total number of children in that cohort

+/- Increase or decrease since 2015 CSA

% Percentage of children in that cohort

4.0 Places:

4.1 Total Providers and Places for 0 to 4 Year Olds

CC Reach 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	18	51	4	277	4	94	0	0	31	642 (+28)
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	3	132	27	81	1	59	2	26	0	0	33	298 (+18)
Bramhall	4	160	13	39	3	112	2	70	0	0	22	381 (+45)
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	2	80	10	30	2	104	1	30	0	0	15	244 (-25)
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	4	160	24	72	4	188	4	96	0	0	36	516 (+33)
Brinnington	3	200	12	36	1	28	3	116	0	0	19	380 (+1)
Cheadle and Gatley	3	120	29	87	5	255	3	76	0	0	40	538 (+64)
Cheadle Hulme	3	120	18	54	3	207	1	30	3	259	28	670 (-13)
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	7	398	44	132	6	458	5	230	0	0	62	1218 (+56)
Hazel Grove and High Lane	4	140	20	60	5	253	4	104	0	0	33	557 (+16)
Heald Green	3	120	10	30	2	229	2	50	0	0	17	429 (-71)
Heatons	3	168	47	141	4	285	1	32	1	24	56	650 (+79)
Ladybridge Park	1	40	7	21	1	29	1	26	1	44	11	160 (+9)
Marple	3	96	19	57	3	199	5	179	1	28	31	559 (+123)
Offerton	2	157	18	54	2	93	1	14	0	0	23	318 (+16)
Reddish North	1	78	19	57	1	45	1	40	0	0	22	220 (+33)
Reddish Vale	4	276	31	93	3	122	0	0	0	0	38	491 (+54)
Stepping Hill	2	100	25	75	4	281	1	40	1	0	33	496 (+17)
Borough Total	57 (+1)	2,765 (+40)	391 (-30)	1,170 (+253)	54 (0)	3,224 (+32)	41 (-2)	1,253 (+152)	7 (-2)	355 (+6)	550 (-33)	8,767 (+483)

Figures in brackets represent Increase or decrease since 2015 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Table 4.1 shows that there has been an increase of 483, 0-4 childcare places in Stockport since the 2015 report. This is a combination of growth in capacity within the existing childcare provision through expansion or reconfiguration and new provision. This is in line with the

increase in the population and increase in demand for places that has been 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 the number of places they offer has risen.

4.2 Total Providers and Places for 5 to 7 Year Olds:

CC Reach 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	1	60	0	0	16	51	17	111	4	170	2	35
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	1	30	0	0	20	75	21	105	4	280	2	60
Bramhall	4	220	3	170	9	36	16	426	3	162	4	178
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	1	20	1	25	9	30	11	75	2	86	2	61
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	2	122	1	62	18	69	21	253	2	110	2	110
Brinnington	1	30	1	12	9	42	11	84	3	174	0	0
Cheadle and Gatley	2	72	0	0	28	87	30	159	1	50	1	45
Cheadle Hulme	7	229	4	130	17	60	28	419	0	0	0	0
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	5	214	2	65	42	141	49	420	9	326	3	118
Hazel Grove and High Lane	3	78	0	0	18	60	21	138	0	0	0	0
Heald Green	3	113	2	93	10	30	15	236	1	47	1	34
Heatons	4	116	1	40	47	147	52	303	1	40	0	0
Ladybridge Park	0	0	1	50	7	21	8	71	2	160	1	100
Marple	4	122	3	102	18	63	26	287	2	90	2	90
Offerton	1	50	1	50	16	57	17	157	2	58	1	30
Reddish North	0	0	0	0	19	60	19	60	1	50	0	0
Reddish Vale	2	80	1	50	25	90	90	220	4	380	0	0
Stepping Hill	6	207	4	152	22	96	32	455	1	60	2	140
Borough Total	47 (-2)	1763 (-111)	25 (-3)	1001 (-122)	350 (N/A)	1209 (N/A)	484	3979	42	2243	23	1001

Figures in brackets represent Increase or decrease since 2015 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

School run provision.

Table 4.2 includes information taken from the January 2016 Census about school run before and after schools provision. This is not required to be separately registered with Ofsted and places may be available and fluctuate by need. School run before and after school provision is usually only available term time 38 weeks of the year.

Private, Voluntary and Independent holiday provision is available during school holidays.

All areas have access to either school or privately run before and after school provision. In Reddish North this is available via the local childminders.

Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Provision

The table above shows that there are less out of school and holiday providers and places than in 2015. Average occupancy is 80.3% which has increased from 77% but this suggests that there is still additional capacity in the sector.

Children over 8 years of age are outside the requirement for registration but must not impact on the care of the under 8s in that provision.

Childminders are included within the figures in 4.2 as they can also choose to offer holiday and out of school care (on the childcare register) and can care for up to three children aged 5-8 years in addition to their early year's registration numbers.

4.3 Childcare Register/ Voluntary Childcare Register:

There are 3 types of Ofsted registration for early years and childcare providers. They are the Early Years Register (EYR), Childcare Register (CR) and Voluntary Childcare Register (VCR). The table below shows the number of Stockport early years and childcare providers on each register, often they are on all three.

Child Services Register	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-School	PVI Out of School Care	Holiday Provision	TOTAL
Early Years Register (under 5 year olds)	391	54	41	42	20	548
Childcare Register (5 to 8 year olds)	402	48	25	42	20	537
Voluntary Childcare Register (over 8 year olds)	402	38	23	47	22	529

Some providers are only on the voluntary register because the only cater for the older age group or being registered enables eligible parents to claim appropriate childcare credits or vouchers to help with childcare costs.

Providers are not required by law to register to deliver childcare for children over the age of 8.

There are also many exemptions to childcare registration and more information can be found on the Ofsted website.

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.

School run provision does not need to be registered with Ofsted and is inspected as part of the school Ofsted inspection. Places available are variable according to school / parent demand. Schools also offer other activities that take place after the school day and these can also support working parents. However these may not offer the consistency and reliability of paid for after school childcare places.

Unmet demand has been recorded for a small number of parents who have reported difficulties in identifying appropriate before and after school provision to meet their needs however, demand has not translated into sufficient numbers at a local level to make it a viable business proposition.

A brokerage service has been offered and on some occasions parents have been able to resolve their childcare needs by considering alternative types of provision such as childminders.

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.

Holiday provision can include formal Ofsted registered provision which is aimed at meeting the childcare needs of working parents. Parents also use a variety of other holiday activity sessions including play, sports schemes, dance and drama and mobile play provision, which offer a variety of social activities for children outside school term times. Most of these activities are not required to register with Ofsted and are not included in this report. However they are acknowledged as a valuable resource for working parents to manage their holiday childcare.

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.

4.4 Places Compared with Population:

The table at 4.5 shows that there are sufficient registered childcare places for nearly half of the under 5s population. There was a small increase in places again this year building on the very small increase in 2015. This increase is likely to have been because of the high take up of 2 year old places. However, a small population increase, meant that the overall increase in places per 100 was only slight at 2.2.

Localised fluctuations are expected due to the spread and movement of the population across the borough.

There are two areas that are showing the greatest decrease in places per 100;

Cheadle Hulme – This may be because a combination of increased population and a reduction in provision but there is still a high proportion of places per population

Heald Green is showing the largest decrease in places per 100. This is because a large nursery closed combined with an increase in population. Since this data has been produced there has been a new preschool and day nursery provision registered and opened in the Heald Green area.

Places per 100 in the 5-7 age range are lower because children in this age range are in school and childcare places are not always required for after school holiday provision because of the reasons stated in **childcare for older children section**.

We have Ofsted registration information for childcare places under the age of 8. However this provision would also be used by older children in the primary school age range.

4.5 Places Compared with Population

CC Reach Area	Under 5 (0 to 4)				5 to 7 year olds			
	Places	Population	Places per 100		Places	Population	Places per 100	
			#	+/-			#	+/-
Abacus	642	1,549	41.4	+2.3	281	871	32.3	+26.4
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	298	1,064	28.0	+1.1	385	581	66.3	+62.0
Bramhall	381	1,005	37.9	+3.7	604	711	85.0	+31.8
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	244	585	41.7	-0.5	161	417	38.6	+26.8
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	516	981	52.6	+4.0	363	659	55.1	+26.3
Brinnington	380	842	45.1	-0.2	258	433	59.6	+52.9
Cheadle and Gatley	538	1,103	48.8	+4.4	209	653	32.0	+20.2
Cheadle Hulme	670	881	76.0	-6.6	419	533	78.6	+13.5
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	1218	2,109	57.8	+3.1	766	1,056	72.5	+43.8
Hazel Grove and High Lane	557	1,071	52.0	+1.3	138	722	19.1	+8.4
Heald Green	429	749	57.3	-13.4	283	497	56.9	+11.3
Heatons	650	1,201	54.1	+5.6	343	661	51.9	+9.9
Ladybridge Park	160	410	39.0	0.0	251	252	99.6	+52.4
Marple	559	929	60.2	+11.6	377	644	58.5	+11.5
Offerton	318	805	39.5	+1.7	245	541	45.3	+26.8.6
Reddish North	220	929	23.7	+3.5	110	526	20.9	+20.9
Reddish Vale	491	767	64.0	+4.9	600	427	140.5	+109.3
Stepping Hill	496	833	59.5	+1.4	595	523	113.8	+48.3
Grand Total	8,767	17,813	49.2	+2.2	6,388	10,707	59.2	+31.3

Stockport currently has 16.7% of 0-4 year olds living in households with out of work benefits and 18.7% living in households on low income (table 2.1) Demand for childcare could increase with changes in benefit entitlements or if more parents return to work. This will be an area that the local authority will be focusing on in 2017 to manage the demand for 3 & 4 year old places that could be created by the 30 hours free childcare.

5.0 Occupancy:

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.

Occupancy figures are calculated based on providers who submitted both place and vacancy information. Providers who did not include vacancy information have been excluded from the figures. Therefore the figures in table 5.1 may not directly correlate to those in table 4.2. This is to enable us to report on occupancy based on actual attendance. These submission rates are shown in table 5.1 below

5.1 Submission rates:

Childminder	310	77.1%
Day nursery	54	100%
Holiday Scheme	24	82.7%
Out of School Care	45	95.7%
Pre-School Playgroup	39	95.1%
Independent Schools with Nursery Unit	6	85%

5.2 Occupancy Rates Summary:

Provider Type	Places		Occupancy*			Historic	National Occupancy			
	#	+/-	2016 CSA	2015 CSA	+/-	2013 CSA	National 2016	National 2015	National 2013	+/-
Council Run Nursery	2,765	+40	78.9%	79.6%	-0.7% pts	86%	n/a	n/a	90%	n/a
Childminder	2,337	+253	66.1%	59.9%	+6.2% pts	71%	n/a	n/a	75%	n/a
Day nursery	3,224	+32	76.8%	81.8%	-5.0% pts	71%	72% ¹	73%	79%	-1%
Pre-School	1,253	+152	74.0%	74.6%	-0.6% pts	80%	n/a	72% ²	79%	n/a
Independent School Nursery	355	+6	80.0%	78.3%	+1.7% pts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of School Care	1,713	-161	80.3%	77.1%	+3.2% pts	70%	n/a	n/a	76%	n/a
Holiday Provision	1,001	-122	43.1%	72.5%	-29.4% pts	54%	n/a	n/a	74%	n/a

* Occupancy figures calculated based on providers who submitted both vacancy and place information. Providers who did not include vacancy information have been excluded.

¹ NDNA, Annual Nursery Survey 2016

² Ceeda, Counting the Cost of Childcare, August 2014

The table at 5.2 shows occupancy in the different types of childcare provision and compares against 2015 and national data where available.

Childminders Only 77.1% of childminders declared their vacancy data and those that did were showing the lowest occupancy in the sector at 66.1%, although higher occupancy than in 2015. All childminders are registered by Ofsted for 3 children under the age of 5. This includes any of their own children who would not count as childcare. Because of this, it may be that some childminders cannot offer childcare for three under-fives or choose to have less than three children and are therefore showing under occupancy by choice.

Some spare capacity in the childminding sector has meant that many have taken the opportunity to register to offer funded 2, 3 & 4 year old places. More childminders are offering funded places than in

previous years, there are now **188** childminders out of the 391 (**46%**) on the early years register offering funded places. Childminders offering funded places has helped meet the need for 2 year old funded places and also supported their own sustainability in the childcare market. Childminders will also have an important role in enabling parental choice and flexibility for the 30 hours free childcare September 2017.

Maintained nursery schools and classes have 78.9 % occupancy at January 2016, however this rises to **81.6%** in the summer term.

Occupancy in all provision is at its highest in the summer term but the table at 5.2 suggests that all provision has some capacity within its existing provision that could help Stockport to meet the potential demand from the 30 hours free childcare offer from September 2017.

Day Nurseries. Occupancy in Stockport day nurseries (76.8%) continues to be higher than the national average (72%). This suggests that Stockport nurseries remain sustainable businesses but that there is some capacity to meet the increased demand for 30 hour childcare places.

Pre-schools. Occupancy rates of 74% are very similar to 2015. This may also mean that there is some capacity to meet the increased demand for 30 hour childcare places

Holiday provision. This has seen a reduction in its occupancy rates in Stockport. This may be because parents are using alternative sources of care during the holidays as described in care for older age children.

School run before and after school provisions- Schools are not required to register this provision separately and do not report on numbers attending.

During 2017 the local authority will be working with all early years providers on ways to offer the extended free entitlement that will maximise their occupancy.

5.3 Average Occupancy by Children's Centre Reach Area at January 2016

The table at 5.4 shows that there is some variations in occupancy around the borough and in each childcare sector. It may be because there are smaller numbers of provision in particular areas or that there were less data returns for a particular area.

There will be some consideration of this capacity to help with the planning for extended free entitlement to 30 hours childcare places for September 2017.

5.4 Average Occupancy by Children's Centre Reach Area at January 2016

CC Reach Area	Council Run Nursery	Childminder	Day nursery	Pre-School	Independent Schools Nursery	CC Reach Average	Out of School Care	Holiday Provision
Abacus	65.9%	50.0%	76.2%	85.1%	n/a	69.30%	91.7%	n/a
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	81.1%	85.0%	100.0%	76.9%	n/a	85.75%	100.0%	n/a
Bramhall	71.9%	63.3%	84.8%	94.3%	n/a	78.58%	77.5%	100.0%
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	90.0%	44.4%	76.0%	76.7%	n/a	71.78%	80.8%	25.0%
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	96.1%	60.3%	66.5%	70.8%	n/a	73.43%	81.5%	46.7%
Brinnington	67.0%	55.6%	71.4%	77.6%	n/a	67.90%	90.8%	70.6%
Cheadle and Gatley	95.0%	57.1%	74.9%	100.0%	n/a	81.75%	93.3%	n/a
Cheadle Hulme	98.3%	78.4%	82.6%	100.0%	75.3%	86.92%	50.5%	21.4%
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	63.1%	73.9%	72.3%	69.6%	n/a	69.73%	84.4%	35.3%
Hazel Grove and High Lane	84.3%	83.3%	76.3%	50.0%	n/a	73.48%	48.7%	n/a
Heald Green	85.8%	37.0%	75.5%	88.0%	n/a	71.58%	75.6%	50.0%
Heatons	86.3%	74.5%	97.2%	87.5%	100.0%	89.10%	92.5%	37.5%
Ladybridge Park	100.0%	66.7%	62.1%	84.6%	100.0%	82.68%	100.0%	25.0%
Marple	75.0%	56.1%	63.8%	42.4%	75.0%	62.46%	100.0%	61.1%
Offerton	61.8%	70.4%	50.5%	28.6%	n/a	52.83%	n/a	n/a
Reddish North	61.5%	62.7%	95.6%	90.0%	n/a	77.45%	n/a	n/a
Reddish Vale	89.5%	67.7%	79.5%	n/a	n/a	78.90%	92.6%	50.0%
Stepping Hill	99.0%	62.7%	77.6%	100.0%	n/a	84.83%	77.9%	50.5%
Borough Average 2016	78.9%	66.1%	76.8%	74.0%	80.0%	75.47%	80.3%	43.1%
Borough Average 2015	79.6%	59.9%	81.8%	74.6%	78.3%	77%	77.1%	72.5%
Increase/ Decrease	-0.7% pts	+6.2 % pts	-5.0% pts	-0.6% pts	+1.7 % pts		+3.2 % pts	-29.4% pts

6.0 Availability and Flexibility of childcare:

The table at 6.1 indicates that most provision is available all week from a minimum of 8am – 6pm in Stockport. The outcome of a Department for Education consultation on delivery models for the Extended Free Entitlement in September 2017 extends the times that providers can claim for free entitlement funding, it will be available for ten hours between the times of 7am-7pm. This may offer opportunity for providers to extend their offer for parents to take their funded childcare.

Childminders often have the most flexible working hours and can pick up and drop off at other provision enabling shared care and partnership arrangements. Some school nursery classes also offer the option for parents to pay for additional hours if space is available or for nursery children to attend after school provision and this supports some parent's ability to return to work.

Preschools could be less able to be flexible with their offer if there are building restrictions or they do not have parental demand for full day places.

6.1 Opening Times

Provider Type	% Open 8am or Earlier	% Closing 6pm or Later	% Providers Open Full Week
Childminder	97.4%	52.9%	77.1%
Day nursery	96.4%	90.9%	94.5%
Pre-School	7.9%	3.0%	94.9%
Out of School	93.4%	78.7%	98.7%
Holiday Provision	87.5%	70.8%	95.8%

Percentages calculated based on providers who submitted opening and closing time information. Providers who do not submit this information have been excluded from these figures.

7.0 Average Cost of Early Education & Childcare:

Provider Type	2016 Average	Borough Figures					Averages	
		2015 Average	2013 Average	+/-	High	Low	North West	National
Childminder	£35.72 (daily)	£35.55 (daily)	£33.49	+£0.17	£45.00	£25.00	£35.28	£41.39
Day nursery	£45.70 (daily)	£44.24 (daily)	£41.25	+£1.46	£59.00	£37.00	£40.43	£44.75
Pre-School	£25.96 (daily)	£24.75 (daily)	£23.58	+£1.21	£41.50	£18.50	<i>Not obtained</i>	
Before School	£3.78 (hourly)	£4.41 (sessional)	£3.24	n/a	£8.00 (hourly)	£2.57 (hourly)	<i>Not obtained</i>	
After School	£3.38 (hourly)	£8.89 (sessional)	£8.10	n/a	£5.00 (hourly)	£2.00 (hourly)	£3.05 (hourly)	£3.26 (hourly)
Holiday Provision	£26.76 (daily)	£24.96 (daily)	£22.19	+£1.80	£48.00	£16.50	<i>Not obtained</i>	

¹Daycare Trust Cost on Childcare Survey 2016

After School club open average 2.5 hours

Before School club open average 1.2 hours

The table at 7.0 indicates that average costs for childcare has risen across Stockport. Childcare costs across Stockport have risen in line with the national increase. Stockport's average day nursery rate is higher than the national average but childminders are lower.

N.B. The preschool daily rate submitted is variable because of the actual times they are open are variable at each preschool. For example, a session may be 3 hours or 5 hours long, this makes it difficult to do like for like comparisons of the rates.

The 30 hours free childcare is aimed at supporting parents to meet their childcare costs as it enables working parents to have additional free childcare. The Department for Education has consulted on the appropriate funding rate and childcare providers are reassessing their costs in line with the national minimum and living wage and pension responsibilities. These additional costs may reflect an increase in the average hourly rates for 2017.

8.0 Quality:

The government is very clear that all children should be able to take up their entitlement to funded early education in a high quality setting. Ofsted are the sole arbiters of quality and providers are graded by Ofsted as Outstanding/Good/Requires Improvement (previously Satisfactory) or Inadequate. Providers without early year's children in their setting may receive a grade of met or unmet.

Ofsted registered early years providers with an Ofsted grade of Outstanding or Good can offer two, three and four year old funded places. Providers with a Satisfactory/Requires Improvement grade can deliver funded places for three and four year olds but to offer two year old places they must be working with the local authority on an action plan to improve the quality of their provision. There is a quality improvement process in place for early years providers graded requires improvement or inadequate receive support from Stockport Quality Improvement Team.

Where a provider receives an Inadequate Ofsted grade, early years funding can be removed from the setting as soon as is reasonably practical to do so.

8.1 Providers without Full Ofsted inspection judgement: snapshot at 16.9.16

Provider Type	Total Providers	Awaiting First Inspection	Met	Not Met
Childminder	87	58	22	7
Day nursery	6	6	0	0
Holiday Scheme	6	5	1	0
Out of School Care	12	11	0	1
Pre-School Playgroup	6	6	0	0
Non-Domestic Total	30	28	1	1

The table 8.1 shows providers who were awaiting their first Ofsted inspection judgement.

Providers without an Ofsted judgement are often, but not always newly registered provision. Newly registered provision does not have an Ofsted inspection judgement until its first inspection. Some providers can wait up to 30 months before their first inspection. However, these provisions are presumed good and are able to offer funded early years places. These provisions have been omitted from the table at 8.2.

Independent schools are also not included in the above figures as they are not inspected by Ofsted. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the agency responsible for the inspection of schools which are, or whose Heads are, members of one of ISC's member associations in England. ISI is a Government approved inspectorate and the quality of its service is monitored by Ofsted on behalf of the DfE. All Stockport Independent schools have a grade of good or better.

Independent schools and those without their first Ofsted judgement are not included in table 8.2 which only shows the number of providers with a current Ofsted inspection grade. Because of these exclusions the numbers of providers may not show as exactly the same number as in tables 4.1 and 4.2.

8.2 Ofsted Inspection Grades: snapshot at 16.9.2016

Childcare on Non-domestic premises consists of; day nursery, preschool, out of school and holiday provision. It is reported as childcare on non-domestic premises in Ofsted's national figures. Childminders are reported by Ofsted as childcare on domestic premises.

Independent schools are not inspected by Ofsted and are not reported in this table.

The quality of childcare provision in all provider types in Stockport continues to improve as documented in the 2011, 2013 and 2015 childcare sufficiency assessments.

Provider Type	Total Providers	Good or Better	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement*	Inadequate
Council Run Nursery	56	91.07% (51)	28.5% (16)	62.5% (35)	7.1% (4)	1.7% (1)
Childminder	315	90.4% (285)	11.1% (35)	79.3% (250)	9.2% (29)	0.3% (1)
Day nursery	48	97.9% (47)	25.0% (12)	72.9% (35)	2.1% (1)	0.0% (0)
Holiday Scheme	19	90% (18)	20% (4)	70% (14)	5% (1)	0.0% (0)
Out of School Care	36	91.6% (33)	11.4% (4)	80.5% (29)	8.5% (3)	0.0% (0)
Pre-School Playgroup	35	94.3% (33)	11.4% (4)	82.9% (29)	5.7% (2)	0.0% (0)
Non-Domestic Total	138	130	24	107	7	0

*includes Satisfactory

The quality of all childcare provision in Stockport continues to show improvement. It has improved by 11% since the last childcare sufficiency report in 2015. This comparison is shown in table 8.3

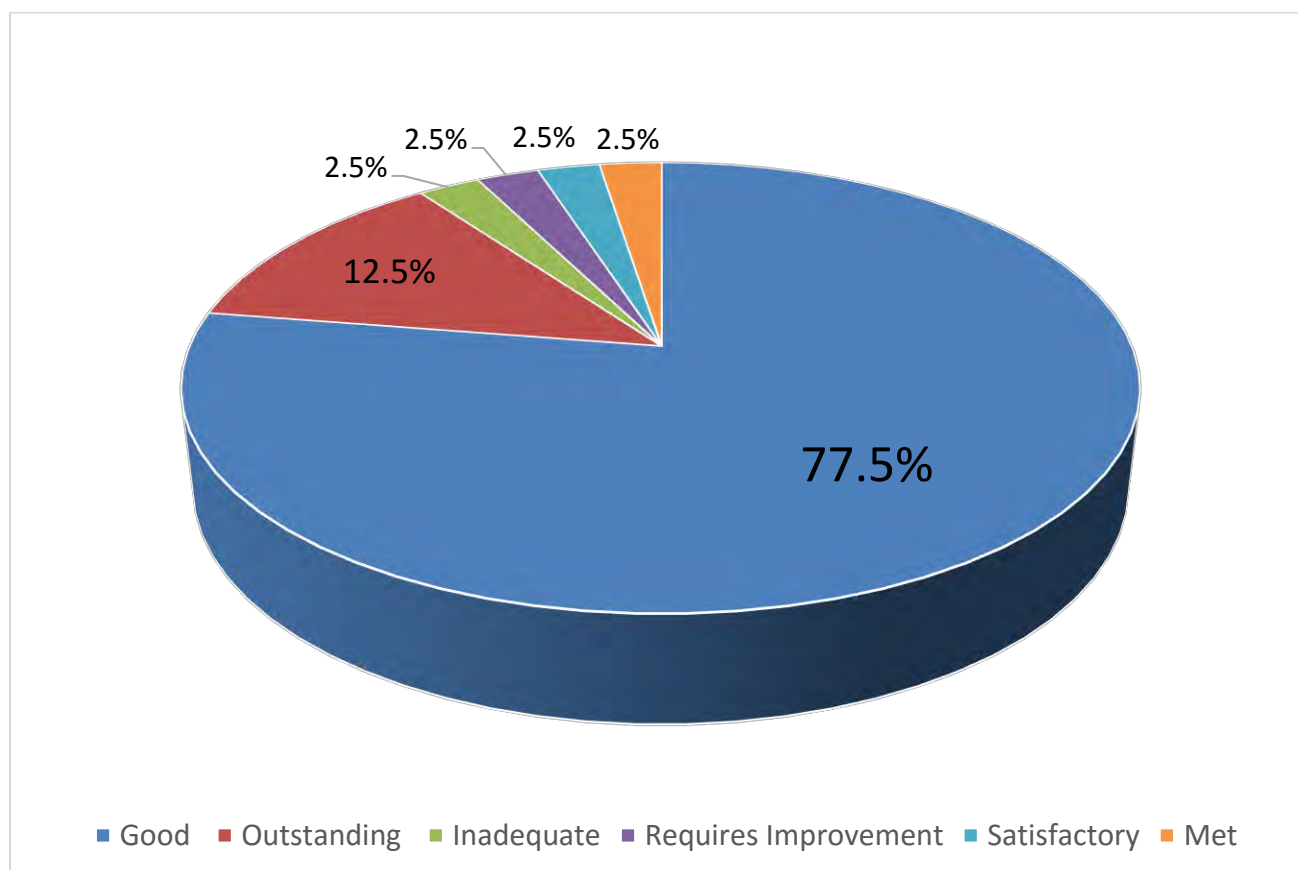
8.3 Ofsted Inspection Judgement good or better: snapshot at 16.9.16

Comparison with 2015:

Provider Type	SMBC Average Good or Better			National Average Good or Better		
	2016	2015	+/-	2016	2015	+/-
Council Run Nursery	91.0%	87.3%	+3.7% pts	n/a	82%	n/a
Childminder	90.4%	82.5%	+7.9% pts	n/a	81%	n/a
Day nursery	97.9%	88.2%	+9.7% pts	See non-domestic below		
Holiday Scheme	90.0%	85.0%	+5.0% pts	See non-domestic below		
Out of School Care	91.6%	73.0%	+18.6% pts	See non-domestic below		
Pre-School Playgroup	94.3%	83.3%	+11.0% pts	See non-domestic below		
Non-Domestic Total	93.3%	82.6%	+11.0 % pts	n/a	86%	n/a

8.4 Quality of provision by Priority Areas:

The majority of childcare provision in Stockport's priority areas is graded good or better.



This shows PVI Ofsted Graded Provisions in the Local Authority Priority Areas. The priority areas are defined below.

- Pocket - Offerton North
- Priority 1 - Adswold and Bridgehall
- Priority 1 - Brinnington
- Priority 1 - Central (Hollywood Towers)
- Priority 1 - Central (Lancashire Hill & Heaton Norris)
- Priority 1 - Central (Town Centre)
- Priority 2 - Central Stockport
- Priority 2 - Councillor Lane
- Priority 2 - Marbury Road
- Priority 2 - North Reddish
- Priority 2 - Queens Gardens
- Priority 2 - Woodley Precinct

9.0 Early Education Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds -Take-up

9.1 Two Year Old Early Education Entitlement: take up spring 2016 as at 16.4.

CC Reach Area	Entitled Children ¹	Spring 2016 Taken up Place ²		Historic Figures		
		TOTAL	%	Autumn 2015	Summer 2015	CSA 2015
Abacus	145	137	94.5%	115 (97.5%)	120 (90.9%)	131 (98.5%)
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	60	51	86.7%	61 (82.4%)	62 (64.6%)	79 (84.9%)
Bramhall	28	24	85.7%	15 (62.5%)	16 (59.3%)	22 (88.0%)
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	55	55	100.0%	60 (96.8%)	43 (76.8%)	44 (86.3%)
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	59	66	111.9%	64 (94.1%)	58 (84.1%)	55 (85.9%)
Brinnington	125	116	93.6%	111 (87.4%)	111 (97.4%)	108 (93.9%)
Cheadle and Gatley	36	28	77.8%	30 (75.0%)	27 (64.3%)	30 (71.4%)
Cheadle Hulme	25	19	76.0%	16 (66.7%)	19 (82.6%)	22 (88.0%)
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	170	150	88.2%	81~ (79.4%) 81~ (89.0%)	93~ (84.5%) 73~ (80.2%)	105~ (97.2%) 75~ (83.3%)
Hazel Grove and High Lane	38	40	105.3%	43 (84.3%)	55 (90.2%)	52 (76.5%)
Heald Green	44	26	59.1%	23 (65.7%)	15 (30.6%)	26 (50.0%)
Heatons	41	30	73.2%	32 (69.6%)	31 (67.4%)	37 (78.7%)
Ladybridge Park	14	11	78.6%	41 (83.7%)	28 (75.7%)	28 (75.7%)
Marple	34	30	88.2%	34 (97.1%)	40 (88.9%)	40 (108.1%)
Offerton	70	66	94.3%	50 (82.0%)	51 (79.7%)	59 (96.7%)
Reddish North	85	65	77.6%	65 (81.3%)	63 (69.2%)	67 (85.9%)
Reddish Vale	62	47	75.8%	54 (80.6%)	65 (83.3%)	69 (75.8%)
Stepping Hill	25	21	84.0%	15 (71.4%)	24 (104.3%)	22 (95.7%)
Out of Area	n/a	58	n/a	73 (n/a)	61 (n/a)	61 (n/a)
TOTAL	1,116	1028	92.1%	1064	1056	1132

1. Children who are identified as eligible to take up a place (DfE November 2015 data)

2. Children taken up a place and with a provider in the Spring 2016 term (data as at 06/04/2016)

* includes non-income assessed criteria

excludes take-up outside of Stockport to avoid double count.

~ Figures shown separately as in 2015 CSA Report Stockport Central was recoded as its own CC Reach area.

9.2 Three and Four Year Old Early Education Entitlement: January 2016

CC Reach Area	Population*	Taken-up Place					CSA 2015	
		PVI	Maintained	Outside Stockport	Total	%	#	%
Abacus	418	196	185	7	388	92.8%	308	91.4%
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	306	116	152	16	284	92.9%	250	84.5%
Bramhall	251	173	87	22	282	112.4%	280	108.09%
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	167	79	71	5	155	92.6%	167	113.6%
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	272	118	152	7	277	102.0%	239	92.3%
Brinnington	229	55	153	0	208	90.7%	210	98.6%
Cheadle and Gatley	279	176	121	19	316	113.1%	285	99.0%
Cheadle Hulme	232	193	75	10	278	119.8%	217	98.6%
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	611	274	230	4	508	83.2%	297 211~	79.60% 92.50%~
Hazel Grove and High Lane	296	163	113	4	280	94.6%	257	88.9%
Heald Green	199	86	95	25	206	103.3%	199	104.7%
Heatons	330	163	110	24	297	90.0%	283	89.3%
Ladybridge Park	107	85	33	3	121	113.4%	200	109.9%
Marple	252	184	86	5	275	109.0%	249	115.3%
Offerton	198	101	118	2	221	111.8%	244	109.4%
Reddish North	234	46	125	15	186	79.5%	211	79.9%
Reddish Vale	207	73	139	5	217	104.7%	193	91.9%
Stepping Hill	207	125	77	8	210	101.6%	215	101.4%
Out of Area	n/a	208	64	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Borough Total	4,795	2,406	2,122	181	4,709	98.2%	4,515	95.6%

*Figures from January 2016 Early Years Census

~ Figures shown separately as in 2015 CSA Report Stockport Central was recoded as its own CC Reach area.

Free Entitlement Take up– The tables 9.1 and 9.2 show high levels of take up of funded early education places for two, three and four year olds in Stockport.

Take up for three and four year olds remain high at 98.2%

Take up of two year old early education also remains consistently high at 92.1% for spring 2016 this compares very favourably with a national average of 72%.

A high percentage of Stockport children are benefiting from funded early education and are able to take these places in good quality early years and childcare provision.

10.0 Disability

Early years providers are committed to inclusive practice and to meet the needs of individual children in their care. Early years' providers in receipt of funding are required through the Children and Families Act 2014 to have regard for the SEND Code of Practice.

Private Voluntary and Independent early year's providers offering early education funding are also required to provide information on how they meet the need of children with special educational needs and disabilities. They are able to demonstrate this commitment to inclusive practice to parents through their information published live on the childcare website to support parents to make suitable childcare choices. Parents can search for settings that may be able to meet their individual needs in the categories listed below. www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare

10.1 Private Voluntary and Independent Childcare provision:

CC Reach Area	Supporting Children with disabilities								
	Local Offer Provider	wheelchair Access	Autism	Communication impairment	Learning difficulty	Hearing impairment	Physical impairment	Visual impairment	Mental health
Abacus	11	18	9	11	10	9	9	9	7
Belmont and Lancashire Hill	5	10	3	5	5	5	3	4	3
Bramhall	7	9	5	5	5	5	5	4	3
Bredbury Green and Goyt Valley	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley	15	17	8	10	12	11	10	9	7
Brinnington	8	6	8	8	8	8	8	7	7
Cheadle and Gatley	12	19	8	10	11	8	9	10	4
Cheadle Hulme	7	15	4	6	7	6	6	7	3
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central	22	27	17	19	19	16	17	16	13
Hazel Grove and High Lane	14	15	13	14	14	14	13	13	12
Heald Green	5	10	3	5	5	3	4	3	3
Heatons	10	16	7	9	10	10	8	8	7
Ladybridge Park	5	9	3	2	3	1	2	2	1
Marple	14	19	10	13	13	10	11	11	9
Offerton	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7
Reddish North	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	2
Reddish Vale	10	11	6	8	8	8	7	6	4
Stepping Hill	17	23	13	16	15	14	13	13	13
Borough Total	178	244	133	156	161	144	139	136	108

10.1 Maintained Nurseries and Schools:

In addition Stockport has specialist or additional resourced units in maintained nurseries or schools that offer provision for children with more complex needs requiring a higher level of support. These are shown by area location in the table below.

CC Reach Area	Provision Available
Bramhall (Valley School and Nursery) (Queensgate Primary School)	There is 1 specialist school for primary aged children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and an additional resourced unit within the nursery based at the school and 1 primary school with an additionally resource provision
Bredbury Green & Goyt Valley (Bredbury Green Nursery)	There is 1 additional resourced unit within a nursery.
Cheadle & Gatley (Meadowbank Primary School)	There is 1 primary schools with an additionally resourced provision .
Edgeley and Cheadle Heath (Hollywood Park Nursery)	There is 1 additionally resourced provision within a council nursery.
Hazel Grove & High Lane (Hazel Grove Secondary School) (Moorfield) (Brookside Primary School)	There are 2 primary schools with additionally resourced provision and 1 secondary with an additional resourced provision .
Heald Green (Oakgrove School) (Etchells Primary School)	There is 1 special school for children of primary school age with a statement of Educational Needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a primary school with an additionally resourced provision
Heaton's (Heaton School)	There is 1 special school for secondary school age children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
Ladybridge Park (Ladybridge Primary School)	There is 1 primary school with an additional resourced unit.
Marple (Middlehurst School) (Rose Hill Primary)	There is 1 special school for secondary school aged children with a statement of special educational needs (SEN)/ Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 1 primary school with an additionally resourced provision .
Offerton (Castle Hill School) (Lisburne School)	There is 1 special school for primary age pupils with a statement of Special Educational needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 1 special school for secondary aged children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
Reddish North (Vale View Primary School)	There is 1 primary school with an additionally resourced provision
Stepping Hill	There is 1 primary and 1 secondary school with an additional resourced unit.

As at July 2016

11.0 Key Points summary

11.1 Working Families-

- There has been an increase in the number of low income families in Stockport and a reduction in those families in Stockport claiming out of work benefits (table 3.1) – this could mean that more parents are in work and could be looking for childcare.
- Encouraging parents who can and want to back to work is the focus of the governments increase in free 30 hours childcare for three and four year olds.

11.2 Places and population.

- There has been a population increase of 210 in the 0-4 age's population and 158 in the 5-7 ages.
- The number of childcare places available (0 to 4) has increased by 483 (6%). (section 4 table 4.1) The increase in places is due to 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.
- Childcare places have increased evenly across the borough except for a decrease in the number of places per 100 in the Heald Green area. This has been addressed with the opening of a new provisions.
- There is a large increase in number of places per hundred in the 5 to 7 provision +30.8 – but this is likely to be that we have captured more accurate information about school run provision.
- Places at Childminders: There has been a decrease in numbers of registered childminders in Stockport over the last 5 years. However, the calibre of new Childminders is now much higher and this has been demonstrated by improved Ofsted inspection grades. In addition larger numbers of childminders are offering funded early education places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds than in previous years. This is supporting their sustainability and Stockport's 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.

11.3 Occupancy –

- Childcare occupancy rates across all the different childcare sectors in Stockport are at similar levels as outlined in the 2015 report–The occupancy levels are (75.47% -2016 and 77.0% 2015). Although it should be noted that 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 remained similar to last year at 78.9% - 2016 and 79.6% in 2015 (table 5.2).
- In Private voluntary and Independent day nurseries occupancy has reduced by 5% from 2015 (table 5.2), however at 76.8% it is still significantly higher than the national average of 72%. This suggests that Stockport nurseries remain strong sustainable businesses.

- In preschools occupancy has remained the same at 74% (table 5.2), despite a growth of places. This is because the increased places have primarily met the increased demand for funded 2 year old places.
- Out of schools have a slightly higher occupancy rate than in 2015 as there are fewer places available and this consolidation of places has enabled them to remain sustainable.
- Holiday clubs are showing as having very low 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

11.4 Costs –

- The table at 7.0 shows that average costs for childcare has risen across Stockport since 2011. Stockport's average day nursery rate is higher than the national average but childminders rates are lower.
- National figures also reflect an increase in costs very similar to those in Stockport. The introduction of 30 hours childcare in September 2017 is designed to help parents with childcare costs.

11.5 Quality –

- The table at 8.2 shows that the quality of childcare provision in Stockport as defined by the Ofsted quality inspection grades continues to show improvement. It has improved by 11% since the last childcare sufficiency report in 2015.
- Early Years Provisions graded “Good or Better” is higher in 2016 at 93.6% compared to 82.6% in 2015.

11.6 Early Education

- Stockport maintains very high levels of participation in nursery education – 92.1% of 2 Year Olds were accessing a place in summer 2016 when the national average was 72%.
- There were 98.2% three and four years olds recorded at the January 2016 census year olds accessing their free entitlement.

11.7 Special Educational Needs and Disability

- Stockport has a large number of high quality early years provisions that publish how they can meet the needs of all children including those with special educational needs or a disability. Providers demonstrate their commitment to inclusive practice through their local offer which is published on www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare. The local authority can act as brokerage for parents who need support to find childcare.

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 supports sustainable childcare. 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 Children Centre areas have higher numbers of childcare provisions and places than others and this is because there is more demand from parents for childcare.
- Government initiatives such as the introduction of funded 2 year old early education places has been the key driver in the development and growth of affordable and sustainable quality early years and childcare provision in 2016. During 2017 Stockport will be focusing on the development of sufficient flexible provision to meet the requirement from the introduction of the 30 hours free childcare in September 2017.

12 Action Plan for 2017 – 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 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.**
- 3. We will continue to ensure Stockport maintains its high numbers of two year old children accessing their funded places and data will be analysed effectively to maximise take up.**
- 4. We will plan for the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare for eligible 3&4 year old children as appropriate in line with government policy. Stockport Local Authority will not be funding any places until September 2017. But will be focusing on the themes below with the aim of removing barriers to parents taking up the free 30 hours childcare in September 2017 ;**

a) Sufficiency

- We will be exploring if there are sufficient places in Stockport to meet demand
- We will be working with local early years providers to look at ways to provide sufficient places
- We will be exploring ways in which early years providers can adapt to maximise places available for all children
- We will explore the options available to parents if some early years providers are unable to offer extended places

b) Flexibility

- We will be exploring different options for taking the extended entitlement in a flexible way
- We will consider ways in which parents can use more than one provider for the free entitlement
- We will explore ways in which the free hours can be taken outside of term time as well as at weekends
- We will explore ways in which sessions can be offered at times and in patterns to meet parents and early year's provider's needs.

Detail about 30 hours free childcare is available on our website

www.stockport.gov.uk/30hours