



Stockport Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report Summer 2025



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Introduction

The provision of high-quality early education and childcare is beneficial for children and their families. It supports a strong local economy and a high impact on the lives of young children. A good start in early years has a positive effect on children's development, helping them to transition to school and preparing them for later life

1. The childcare sufficiency report

1.1 Under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, local authorities are required by legislation to; 'Secure sufficient childcare, so 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)''.

1.2 As part of this duty the local authority produces an annual report. This summer 2025 report provides a summary of the childcare position in Stockport and how changes in national policy impact directly on childcare sufficiency.

1.3 Data Sources

- Population figures are from the office of national statistics (ONS) mid-term
- Occupancy figures from summer 2025
- Locality areas used - Start Well Health Visiting Team Areas. See map at appendix A.

1.4 The last childcare sufficiency report for Stockport was published in 2024 and is available - [Stockport's childcare sufficiency reports - Stockport Council](#)

2. Childcare provision in Stockport

2.1 What is childcare?

Childcare is the term used to describe provision that cares for children while their parents are at work or training. This can be provided from within the first few months of a child's life up to the child being in full time education. It also relates to before and after the school wraparound care and school holiday provision. Government funding enables families with children of all ages to benefit from support towards the cost of childcare.

2.2 Why is childcare important?

High quality, accessible and affordable childcare has enormous social and economic benefits for children and their families. The first 1000 days of a child's life are fundamental to their future life chances and access to high quality early education and childcare helps to equip children with the skills required for early learning and laying the foundations that they need for school and life.

For many families, the ability to access affordable, high quality and accessible childcare enables parents/carers to access employment and training opportunities determining whether they can achieve financial security and the many health, social and economic benefits that this brings. Childcare settings comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and are subject to quality Ofsted/ independent schools/ childminder agency inspections.

The Government has recently published Giving every child the best start in life strategy [Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/giving-every-child-the-best-start-in-life) which outlines how the government will improve child development and ensure that all children have the chance to achieve and thrive. This will influence early years workstreams during the next year and beyond.

2.3 Does Stockport have sufficient childcare?

Stockport currently has sufficient early education and childcare provision for pre-school aged children when settings are operating at, or close to, their maximum registered places. However, settings report that market pressures such as the recruitment and retention of staff, cost of living crisis and higher numbers of children presenting with additional needs in the early years, currently impacts their ability to operate beyond 80% place capacity. This results in a more varied picture of sufficiency, with some areas shown to have insufficient childcare but provision is available in a neighbouring area. Despite these issues, Stockport' childcare sector has risen successfully to the challenge of meeting demand for the expanded childcare places which launched in April 2024 and expanded in September 2025 for working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years, will be entitled to 30 hours of funded for childcare for 38 weeks of the year.

Childcare providers can offer places across a range of age groups and may choose to reprofile their daycare offer based upon their staffing quota and demand for places. For example, increasing the number of 2-year-old places where they are seeing increasing demand for this age group and offsetting this with a reduction in provision to other age groups. The data on places available is based upon the Ofsted registration and may not reflect how settings are operating at any given time.

Childcare Places per hundred Children and children population data ages 0-5. Appendix C This table shows an overall picture across Stockport that there is 58.3 childcare places per hundred children 0-4 years. This figure has steadily risen over the last seven years as provision has grown to meet market demands. Although we await updated ONS figures on population data we do know that birthrates continue to fall and that provision has expanded so we expect this figure to rise in line with demand created by the childcare expansion programme.

We have not been informed by parents of a considerable unmet demand for September 2025. Parents may not always be able to get the choice of provider/ type or flexible options available in a particular area, but it may be available in a neighbouring area. Areas showing an undersupply of places are often bordered by, or close to areas where there is an oversupply of places, thus relieving the insufficiency pressure. Factors affecting the demand for childcare include changing work patterns and practices (i.e. working from home, flexible and hybrid working) and family members sharing pick-ups and drop offs.

The childcare market is dictated by parental demand and government policy which means that the amount and type of childcare in each area reflects the affluence / deprivation of families across Stockport.

The areas where there are a smaller number of places per hundred children are the areas where there is more potential for childcare to open/expand subject to the working/ nonworking patterns of parents and capacity in adjoining areas

Childcare sufficiency is based on information and data collected at a set point and many factors influence the number of actual places available at any one time that make it difficult to have an exact picture. See **Appendix B for table of childcare places and occupancy** which is discussed in more detail at point 3.2

Factors that may influence places available and operational capacity

- Many childcare providers are operating below their Ofsted registered number due to difficulties in recruitment and retention of quality early years practitioners or by choice. **Appendix C1** shows the main reasons indicated by providers in a recent survey. This means that some settings have unused space limiting the number of places that can be offered in each of their rooms
- Childcare providers who have recently increased their number of places, particularly with the capital grant may not have updated their Ofsted registration number so places recorded by Ofsted are lower than their operational number
- Childcare providers have more children on roll than their Ofsted Registered number **See Appendix C2**. This suggests that they are offering more part time places and servicing the childcare needs of more families than their Ofsted registration number suggests.
- The trend for part time childcare places has grown since the pandemic as work patterns have changed and means that one full time place in a setting accommodates more than one child and meets more than one family's needs.
- Increased costs of childcare have impacted family finances and parents look to reducing paid for hours and using grandparents and other family members for informal childcare.

Stockport has been expanding wraparound childcare (before and after school) to meet the needs of working families of school age children and this work has expanded places where there was unmet demand. This work is ongoing and targeted to ensure there are sufficient places to meet the needs of working parents. Further detail in section 5 of the report

Strategies to develop the supply of childcare in Stockport

Several strategies have been employed to increase the supply of early years provision in Stockport over the last two years to prepare for the final phase of the expansion in September 2025 and beyond. Data indicated that Stockport required an additional 397 early years places to meet demand.

- A capital grant scheme was launched in 2024 for Private group childcare settings which created 306 places with additional places provided by newly registered provision and reconfiguration of existing.
- Government childcare funding rates were increased for Financial Year 2025/26 and a one-off expanded entitlements grant was issued in recognition of the challenges of increased minimum wages and other overheads, the grant was to contribute to providers sustainability and their ability to support growth in places for two-year-olds and under places from September 2025.
This acknowledged providers concerns about the impact of increases to Employers National Insurance contributions and the National Minimum Wage and their increasing reliance upon a heavily government funded childcare model which can limit opportunities for further income generation.
- Recruitment and retention continues to be one of the biggest challenges. Work is ongoing with Job Centre Plus, GMCA, other Local Authorities and agencies to improve career pathways into early education and childcare. A GMCA Campaign to promote careers in the early years sector launched in October 2024.
- Enhancements have been made to the software used to claim childcare funding and training provided to the sector to simplify the funding system.
- Regular childcare sector newsletters are distributed to Stockport settings to assist them navigate childcare funding requirements, national and local policy information and new opportunities arising.

- Use of data such as childcare take up rates, HMRC codes by area help to inform childcare expansion strategies and grant decisions. There has been significant engagement with the sector through surveys, forums and consultation and regular dialogue with the Department for Education and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to inform assessments and planning.

3. The Stockport Childcare Market

A summary is listed in the table below more detail in appendices **Appendix B**

Provision Type	Age range	All year round / Term Time Only (TTO)/ holidays	Numbers of providers in Stockport	Comments
Day Nursery Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI)	0-4 years	All year round	64	
Pre Schools (PVI)	2-4 years	TTO	22	
Childminders (PVI)	0-11	All year round	197	
Independent schools with nursery provision (PVI)	2-4 years	TTO	8	2 of the schools offer 0-4 years all year round
Maintained nursery schools	2-4 years	TTO	4	Only 3 from September 2025
Maintained nursery classes	3-4 years	TTO	58	Mainly 3&4 year olds
Wraparound provision	3-11 years	TTO	30 privately run	All schools have access to before and after school provision
Holiday Provision HAF	3-11	Holidays	22 privately run 33 in the HAF scheme may include some of the above (22)	The numbers of clubs that do not require Ofsted registration are unknown in holiday activities
Breakfast Clubs	Primary age	TTO	86	Part of wraparound provision for schools. One school is part of the breakfast club pilot

3.1. Quality of childcare and early education in Stockport - Appendix E pie charts of Ofsted outcomes (Summer 2025)

The government has an ambition that all children can take up their entitlement to funded early education in a high-quality setting. Stockport benefits from a wealth of high-quality provision which is delivered across the borough **99%** of PVI childcare and early education settings are judged to be Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (Summer 2025), a position which has remained consistently high for a number of years

3.2 Early Years Childcare places and occupancy by provider type and area 2025

Stockport has a mix of types of childcare providers operating across the borough and a summary is available at **Appendix B** some points to note are;

- **Childminder** numbers continue to decline in Stockport, and this reflects the national trend. However, a growing number of childminders work with assistants so can potentially offer more places. The quality of their provision remains high with 99% of those inspected achieving an Ofsted inspection grade of good or better.
- **Preschool Providers**, places and quality have remained consistent with 2024 with a slight increase in occupancy.
- **Day Nursery** provision has increased places with new provision opening and expansion due to changes in ownership. These new places have larger than average vacancies while they establish, and this is reflected in a lower % occupancy than last year.
- **School run Nursery Schools & Class** The average occupancy has decreased and schools use this space to offer more 30 hour extended places for working parents of 3 & 4-year-olds.

Total occupancy- This remains below 80%. This may be reflective of the fact that childcare providers are not working at capacity and occupancy may be the highest level that can be achieved due to factors mentioned, particularly an inability to recruit and retain high quality staff. New provision that has created capacity has not yet filled. Staffing is one of the biggest areas of concern hindering growth in the sector and is impacting on the number of places that can be offered and could impact on the borough sufficiency. The local authority has been working with our childcare providers to support recruitment of staff as a low occupancy will impact on their future sustainability or their ability to meet the demand and maintain a flexible offer for parents.

3.2 Take up of funded entitlements.

Take up of childcare has evolved since the pandemic with many families not wanting full time formal paid for childcare places. More families maybe using less formal childcare as they can now work flexible hours and change their working pattern or place of work. Help from friends and family, particularly grandparents mean a need that there is less need for formal childcare. However, data tells us that the introduction of up to 30 funded hours for working parents is well received to support childcare costs and in some cases is the maximum childcare hours required by parents.

This introduction of the expanded working parents' entitlements from April 2024 has meant that many more families can access a funded place and in addition are getting help with their childcare costs, such as Tax Free Childcare (TFC) and the childcare element of Universal Credit. Making childcare more affordable to a wider range of parents.

Analysis of the take up of funded childcare and early education places has identified that:

- The number of children accessing funding has increased because of the introduction of the new entitlements.
- Some children are now accessing childcare for the first time because of the introduction of the working parents' entitlements.
- Some children only take their funded entitlement hours. This may be because parents have adjusted work patterns to fit and use a mixture of formal and informal childcare. In some cases, a childcare provider can use a full-time equivalent place flexibly to meet the childcare needs of more than one child and family.
- Some families take up childcare outside of the immediate area that they live –this maybe because parents choose a provision near to their workplace , there is not availability in the area they live or families may live close to other local authority boundaries, Childcare providers can provide places for parents not in their immediate vicinity and meet a wider sufficiency need. In schools most children take up their places in their school catchment area.
- Take up of the funded entitlements for our two-year-olds in families receiving additional support (FRAS) remains high at 89%. Childcare provision continues to meet this need, and the local authority will continue to prioritise support to help families to access.

Two-year olds in families receiving additional support (FRAS)

The take-up of funded places for 2-year-olds FRAS in Stockport remains high at 89% in summer 2025. **Appendix F** Take up rates have fallen nationally and whilst further analysis is needed, some children eligible for both the working parent and FRAS entitlement were registered for the former and not the latter. The actual number of children eligible for the 2-year-old FRAS offer has been declining for several years and this national trend is reflected in Stockport. The drop in eligibility is partly due to the fall in parents of 2-year-olds receiving legacy benefits which hasn't been offset by the rise in those receiving Universal Credit. In addition, the maximum income thresholds for the eligibility criteria have remained unchanged since their introduction, whilst average incomes have increased with the higher minimum and living wages sometimes taking some parents out of the eligible income bracket but we know they are not necessarily out of the need. In addition, a consistently falling birth rate in recent years has meant less two-year-olds.

The number of children eligible for the 2-year-old FRAS entitlement has reduced from 799 in 2022 ,730 in 2023, 668 in 2024, 591 in summer 2025. However, we know there is still significant need for families in our areas of disadvantage.

[Funded early education and childcare, Reporting year 2025 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Work is on-going to maintain a high take up of 2-year-old FRAS funded places. Last year we introduced text messaging and emails to reach more families, which is working well. **Appendix F** shows take up of the 2-year-old FRAS entitlement in Summer 2025.

Stockport's Family Hubs also support take up by promoting the benefits of childcare and early education where Information and support is available to families. Health visitors and also encourage parents to engage at the child's 18-month ASQ development review and during other fun activities and sessions.

Universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds & SEND

Take-up of universal funded places for three- and four-year-olds in Stockport remains high at 99%. The national take up figure is at 93%. In addition, in Stockport circa 60% of those taking up three and four-year-old universal entitlements also take up some of their working families extended (30 hours) entitlement. **Appendix F1**

The support for funded children with SEND in an early year's provision has increased year on year with the refinement of the Local Offer, increased dedicated Early Years Inclusion Funding (SENIF) and the expansion of the EY SEND consultant and officer roles. The early years workforce is skilled in identifying need and targeting support for these children to help transitions into reception.

Childcare for working parents nine months to four-year-olds.

The borough average take up for the 3& 4-year-olds 30 hours working parents entitlement is 61.4%. Take up % varies across the borough depending on family circumstances as the eligibility criteria is for working parents. The majority of children take up their working families entitlement in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector 73.5% compared to 42.03% in our maintained schools. This is because the children have traditionally attended a longer day /week taking working parent's needs. Although we are seeing some growth in take up in recent years in our maintained schools as reduced numbers of universal children has created capacity for extended places in schools. **Appendix F1**

Since the introduction of funded childcare for working parents of younger children in April 2024. We have been monitoring take up in readiness for the final phase in September 2025 when the entitlement increases to 30 hours funded per week over 38 weeks. Our preparations have shown that many families already taking up childcare privately paid for is between 50% and 75%. This means that many of these children will be converters from paid for childcare to funded childcare. Suggesting that these places are already available in Stockport provision and parents are saving money on their childcare they would have previously paid for.

3.1 Local Authority activity to support families to access Early Years Education and Childcare.

The Local Authority continues to work with parents and Early Years providers to ensure that families can access Early Years provision.

- Stockport provides parents with information through the council website and social media feeds. Information on finding childcare stockport.gov.uk/childcare Parents are signposted to the Best start in Life website [Childcare & Early Years Education | Best Start in Life](#) for national information about childcare support and the childcare calculator which provides parents with more detailed information relating to their financial circumstances.

3.2 Population

There has been a declining birth rate in Stockport since 2018 with reductions varying by geographical area. There is a national decline in birth rates. More information on the national picture is available here [Births in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

The predictions are that growth will remain flat from 2023 for approximately 10 years. **Appendix G 1&2.** The population graph 0-4 years clearly shows the downward trajectory in the Stockport population since 2018. The table at Appendix G2 shows the numbers of children in each age range and area in Stockport. * ONS data 2022 at time of report

In Stockport there is some growth in the overall population linked to house building targets and movement of children into the borough. The increase in housing is considered within the childcare sufficiency; however it has not had significant impact on the 0-4 population.

3.3 Affordability

Childcare costs vary between childcare providers and provider types across Stockport. The average cost of childcare provision locally and nationally has risen by approximately 5% this year. See **Appendix H** Average costs of childcare provision. The Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2025 “ shows just how different a parent’s childcare bill can be with funded entitlements. Working parents of children aged under three in England paid less than half of last year’s cost for a part-time nursery place, and more than 20% less for a full-time place. This is a very welcome step towards making childcare affordable for working families and easing the difficult choices between work and care that parents have been faced with for many years. More detail available in the Childcare Survey 2025 Coram Family. There are on going concerns in the early years sector that increases in minimum and living wages and general cost of living rises will mean that costs of childcare will continue to increase.

[Childcare Survey 2025](#)

3.4 Informal childcare

In addition to formal childcare arrangements a major contributor to the childcare market is informal care from family or friends.

There is also a substantial amount of holiday and afterschool provision that does not require an Ofsted registration such as sport, drama, and dance clubs. These fulfil a childcare role as well as being a focused activity group and are particularly popular in the primary age range.

The expanded funded entitlements are following a similar pattern as they are based on the same criteria.

4. Support - Stockport childcare providers

4.1 Developing quality provision

Stockport Early Years Teams offer support to all providers which includes information and advice, business development support, pre and post Ofsted guidance in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), training and development and opportunities to share best practice and peer support.

4.2. Pre-registration information and guidance / universal promotion

The Early Years teams offer support and guidance to prospective childminders and group providers around their start up, including their Ofsted registration and quality of their provision. The childminding team run pre-registration training for prospective childminders to support childminders to receive a good or better at their first inspection.

There is a substantial amount of information available online to support potential new providers and providers continue to open across the borough without financial support from the Local Authority.

4.3 Workforce Development

Strong effective leadership and a highly skilled and knowledgeable early year's workforce are crucial to our vision for every young child to have strong secure and safe early years' experience and to be ready to start school. Stockport continues to develop and promote a programme of professional development for local childcare provision.

5 Wraparound and Holiday Provision

5.1 Provision in Stockport by area is shown in Appendix J

Wraparound provision is the term now used for before and after school childcare. Stockport has been working to meet the priorities in the National Wraparound Childcare Programme which was launched April 2024. Wraparound childcare is before and after school childcare for primary school aged children that typically runs from around 8am until 6pm, during term time. It may be on a school site run by the school or a private provider or at another local venue, run by a private provider, a nursery, or a childminder to enable parents to access employment and improve labour market participation.

This is different from out-of-school activities, school clubs re extra curricular activities which are less frequent and can be a one-off activity run by the school or a private club such as sports or drama.

Stockport has received government funding to create and expand places where there is limited or no access to provision for parents or where there is higher demand than places available. Through an open grant application scheme over 500 places have been created and many more have grown in schools in areas of high demand to meet parental need. There is currently limited provision for children attending with special educational needs and the affordability of wrap around childcare is a barrier for accessibility and poses a significant challenge for schools and providers in creating sustainable provision.

Parents can use Tax Free Childcare (TFC) [Tax-Free Childcare | Best Start in Life](#) which is a higher amount for children with SEND or Universal Credit (UC) – [Universal Credit Childcare Frequently Asked Questions | Best Start in Life](#) to help pay for their place and might also be able to get help with upfront costs.

Although we only had a survey return of 50% of our PVI wraparound and holiday providers, they all told us they have an inclusive approach and strive to meet the needs of children with SEND.

Summary points

- All primary schools now have access to wraparound provision in various formats.
- Where possible wraparound opens until 6pm unless there is no demand from parents for the later opening.
- All primary schools offer a Breakfast club for their children, and this means that children can access nutritious food at the start of their day in readiness to learn. *
- Childminders play a key role in before, after and holiday provision in our sufficiency survey many pick up from or drop off at local schools. Childminders may have younger siblings of school age children, and one drop off for parents is convenient as the childminder. Children of school age previously attended the childminder. Some childminders solely offer wraparound or holiday provision. Childminders now have more flexibility to choose how they operate and where they work - [Work as a childminder - Early Years Careers](#)
- Informal childcare and clubs such as sport, drama dance and arts and crafts are a large part of a wraparound and holiday club offer. Most are exempt from registration with Ofsted but some register voluntarily so that parents can use childcare vouchers, Tax Free Childcare and Tax Credits to help pay for childcare. These feature highly in parental choice for holiday childcare offering diverse activities for children particularly during the summer break.

* 2026 breakfast clubs the government says it is “ committed to offering a free breakfast club in every state-funded school with primary aged pupils in England (the new breakfast club offer). Breakfast clubs are designed to break down barriers to opportunity, as well as tackle the impact of child poverty. Free universal breakfast clubs give children a supportive start to the school day, ensuring they are ready to learn and make the most of the opportunity’s schools offer”

5.2 Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

Holiday provision is available across the borough. For this report our table of provision at **Appendix K** shows those that support the HAF programme.

Holiday Clubs that are classed as childcare are Ofsted registered and inspected and some of these also operate as wraparound provision during school term times. Some schools run their own holiday clubs, but these may not run every holiday. Other holiday and activity clubs may be themed ie be a sporting club such as football, gymnastics or an activity such as drama, dance arts and crafts. These may be exempt from registration with Ofsted but may do so voluntarily to allow parents to use schemes that support their childcare costs such as Tax-Free Childcare. These are popular particularly during the longer summer holidays when parents are looking for a range of different clubs and activities for their children.

Stockport benefits from an inclusive Holiday, Activity and Food (HAF) Programme for school aged children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals operating throughout the school holidays. HAF is a national Government funded activity and food programme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2022>

There are 22,662 individual spaces available across the borough and all providers are as inclusive and accessible as possible. There are also four clubs with over 150 designated SEN places , either SEND specific clubs or clubs that have a number of places that are reserved for children with Send.

6. Send Provision

6.1 All registered childcare and early education providers offer inclusive provision for children and have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. They must have arrangements in place to support access for children with SEN or disabilities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Early Years Providers working in partnership with parents and the local authority, offer a graduated approach for support to meet the needs of individual children. This may include access to the local authority area Senco team, early years send inclusion funding (SENIF), support applying for education health and care plans (EHCP), working with Stockport Portage Team, funding from the disability access fund (DAF) and access to Team Around the Early Years (TAEY). In addition, Stockport has some designated Resource Nursery Provision, and this can be seen in **Appendix L**

7. Conclusion / Summary

7.1 Stockport currently has sufficient high quality 0-4 childcare places available to meet the needs of working parents based on several factors outlined in this report. We will monitor the implementation of the expanded entitlements throughout 2026 and the impact on Early years sufficiency and update our action plan accordingly

7.2 Challenges that may continue to impact on sufficiency of childcare in 2025/2026

Challenge area	Detail	Actions/ outcomes
Expanded entitlements for working parents	Increase to 30 hours for children from 9 months, is at an early stage and impact across all age ranges not yet fully known	Close monitoring of the growth in demand and sufficiency of places Continue the targeted approach to expansion of places in high priority areas and in the 0–2-year age range. Support new provision and expansion and recruitment
Staffing - difficulties to recruit and retain qualified and quality staff	This reduces the number of childcare places available and the flexibility of the offer for parents.	Continue existing and new ways support for recruitment DfE launched “Do something big Campaign” now Childcare careers

-Some settings are operating at below their Ofsted registered number due to not having enough staff available to open all the rooms	Impacts on Leadership and management in settings	Do something big - Early Years Careers JC+ support for recruitment Greater Manchester recruitment campaign Stockport Childminder recruitment campaign
Data	Analyse data to look at long term trends	Support and predict future sufficiency need to support management of the market.
Childminders Numbers of childminders are decreasing	Childminder registrations are reducing each year but more are working with assistants and more taking under twos because of favourable funding rates and ratios.	Recruitment programme underway.
Wraparound provision	Provision with low numbers may not remain sustainable	Parents continue to have access to wraparound provision

8. Action plan and Key priorities

For 2025-26 for the Local Authority will support the government Best Start in Life strategy [Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](#)

Key Priority	Action	Impact
Ensure sufficient childcare places for working parents	Monitor the take up of early years places Support childcare expansion in priority areas	Sufficient places for working families
2-year-old children Families Receiving Additional Support (FRAS) and children with SEND	Continue to ensure that there are sufficient high-quality places for 2-year-old FRAS children and children with SEND. Key focus in areas with the lowest take up. Integrated work to improve outcomes for this cohort of children in line with Stockport's Best Start in Life Strategy	Two year old children from non working/ low-income families and children with Send can access quality inclusive provision
Wraparound Provision	Continue to grow and expand to meet the government priorities	Wraparound provision in primary schools meets the needs of working parents
School Based Nursery Provision- Phase three	To work with schools and private early years providers to grow and expand places where need is identified.	Sufficient school based early years provision and Private early years provision in geographical areas

Breakfast Clubs- New government policy from 2026 after pilot	To support schools and PVI's to roll out universal breakfast clubs	Parents of primary age children will have access to breakfast clubs
Partnerships with childcare providers and schools.	To continue to work with all partners in the early years sector to strengthen relationships to understand the risks to sustainability and growth of their provision.	Early years provision is supported ,successful and sustainable in Stockport
Staffing in early years	Support Recruitment and Retention in Early years and childcare.	Settings have enough staff to operate to capacity
Childcare Directory	Continue to provide accurate, accessible, up to date, online information for childcare providers and families on all aspects of childcare and early education through our online offer at www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare	Parents can find suitable registered childcare
Information and communications	Continue developing online communications. Website refresh and update. Work in partnership with Family Hubs offer	Parents are aware and supported to find information relating to childcare for their families.
Housing growth	Monitor potential demand for childcare from house building, town centre developments. Address any impact on the supply and demand of early years and childcare places to maintain sufficiency.	There are sufficient childcare places to meet demand

Appendix Tables

Appendix A –Map of Stockport Health Visitor locality areas. You can use our interactive map here - [Stockport Council](#)



Appendix B - Early Years Childcare places and occupancy by provider type for each area 2025

0-4 Year Olds	Council Run Nursery & Academies			Childminder			Day Nursery			Pre-School			Independent School Nursery			TOTAL		
	Startwell Areas	Providers	Places	Occ %	Providers	Places	Occ %	Providers	Places	Occ %	Providers	Places	Occ %	Providers	Places	Occ %	Providers	Places
Adswold	10	538	60.24%	19	99	80.00%	8	558	83.33%	2	60	75.00%				39	1255	74.64%
Brinnington	3	200	66.94%	6	45	84.62%	0	0	0.00%	2	140	98.57%				11	385	62.53%
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	9	380	81.48%	17	54	81.25%	5	311	76.21%	3	96	83.33%	5	435	94.48%	34	1276	83.35%
Gatley Heald Green	6	240	83.33%	22	102	81.72%	12	844	68.01%	4	120	85.00%				44	1306	79.51%
Hazel Grove	6	260	71.67%	28	132	84.17%	10	672	77.68%	2	69	85.51%	1	67	100.00%	46	1200	83.80%
Heatons	8	380	65.23%	30	120	77.42%	10	592	85.64%	2	122	93.44%	1	15	66.67%	50	1229	77.68%
Marple	4	116	89.38%	18	93	77.78%	5	378	84.13%	2	64	68.75%	1	45	73.33%	29	696	78.67%
Offerton and Central	6	317	56.85%	19	66	80.95%	6	563	60.21%	2	60	100.00%				33	1006	74.50%
Reddish	4	314	67.68%	21	72	75.56%	4	182	74.18%	0	0	0.00%				29	568	54.35%
Werneth	6	260	85.00%	17	51	79.49%	4	274	78.83%	3	71	70.42%				30	656	78.44%
Totals	62	3005	72.78%	197	834	80.29%	64	4374	76.47%	22	802	84.45%	8	562	83.62%	345	9577	74.75%
2024	62	3005	73.49%	220	918	82.37%	63	4245	81.47%	22	802	83.62%	8	562	83.62%	375	9532	78.39%
2023	61	2965	75.35%	244	902	78.74%	63	4112	73.90%	23	849	82.10%	8	546	86.99%	391	9374	77.73%
2022	59	2885	77.83%	258	1035	85.14%	63	4085	77.04%	24	894	83.46%	8	546	79.63%	404	9445	80.59%
2021	59	2885	78.45%	283	1137	80.18%	60	3976	78.56%	27	990	80.48%	8	546	84.07%	429	9534	78.93%
2019	58	2,845	74.24%	320	1,116	78.90%	57	3,765	80.42%	32	1,058	85.73%	8	509	83.89%	467	9293	80.64%
2018	57	2,805	71.68%	335	1,164	77.34%	57	3,731	80.64%	36	1,131	83.02%	8	526	77.86%	485	9357	78.11%
2017	57	2,805	72.40%	355	1,173	76.41%	56	3,746	81.76%	38	1,121	83.00%	8	522	73.80%	506	9367	78.31%
2016	57	2,765	78.90%	391	1,170	66.10%	54	3,224	76.80%	41	1,253	74.00%	7	355	80.00%	543	8767	75.47%

Appendix C - Childcare places per hundred children

2025 - ONS Mid 2022 data

Health Visitor Area	Under 5 (0 to 4) year olds		
	Places	Population	Places per 100
			#
Adswold	1,255	1,257	99.8
Brinnington	385	1,524	25.3
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	1276	2172	58.7
Gatley Heald Green	1,306	2,277	57.4
Hazel Grove	1,200	764	157.1
Heatons	1,229	1,854	66.3
Marple	696	1,433	48.6
Offerton and Central	1,006	2,986	33.7
Reddish	568	1,218	46.6
Werneth	656	953	68.8
Total 2025	9,577	16,438	58.3
Total 2024	9,532	16,438	58.0
Total 2023	9,374	16,966	55.3
Total 2022	9,445	16,966	55.7
Total 2021	9,514	17,261	55.1
TOTAL 2019	9,293	17,961	51.7
TOTAL 2018	9,357	18,062	51.8
TOTAL 2017	9,367	17,987	52.0

Childcare settings and Ofsted and operational capacity

Appendix C1 - Childcare settings operating below Ofsted registered capacity and rationale

	Yes	No	Not Ans	
Are you currently operating at less than your Ofsted registered capacity?	142	105	4	

	DN	Pre-Sch	CM	Ind
Yes	46	13	78	5
No	18	9	76	2
Not Answered			3	1
	64	22	157	8

If "Yes" please select why that is

	DN	Pre-Sch	CM	Ind
Can't get enough staff	20	2	1	1
Staff absences	2	1	0	1
Personal Choice	3	5	50	0
Not enough children	20	9	13	3
Other	15	2	11	1

Appendix C2 - Number of children on role/registered at provision compared to Ofsted registered number

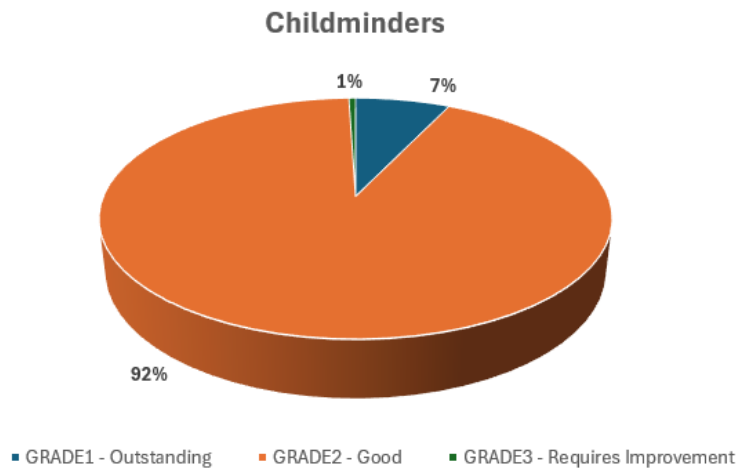
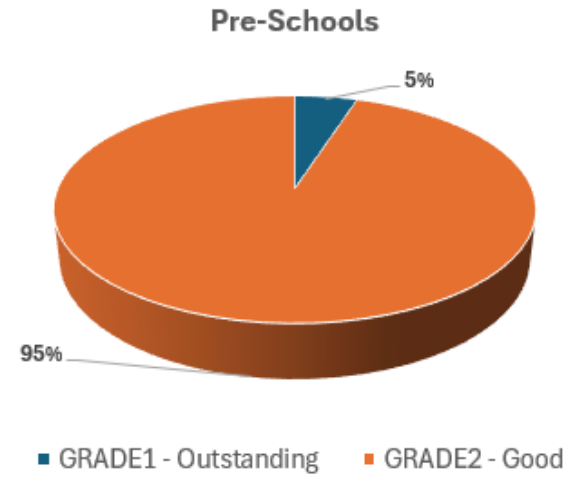
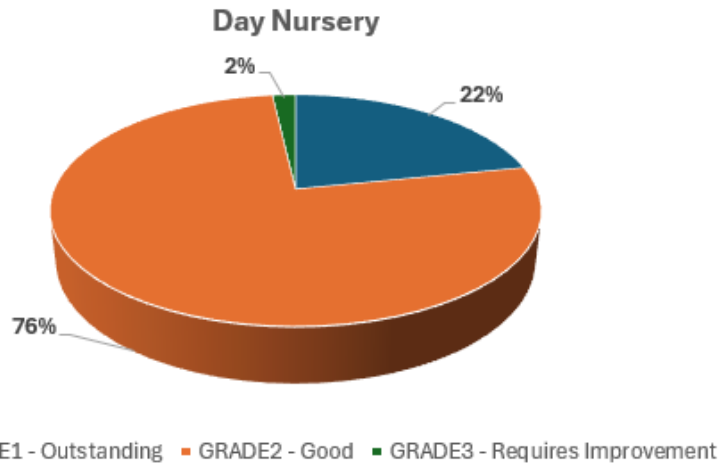
	Occupancy	Currently Registered at provision	Ofsted Registered number to take	Difference
Childminder	80.29%	1263	834	(+)429
Day Nursery	76.47%	5484	4374	(+)1110
Pre-School	84.45%	810	802	(+)8

Appendix D - 0-4 childcare spaces by Ofsted registration and age range

Places calculated using DfE formula to estimate the % take up of places by age range by provider type

All Providers				
<i>Available Places</i>	<i>Reg spaces</i>	Under 2s	2Year Olds	3&4 Year Olds
Maintained School	3005	n/a	150	2855
Pre-School	802	40	200	562
Day Nursery	4374	1093	1093	2188
Childminders	834	208	208	417
Independent Schools	562			
Total spaces	9577			

Appendix E - Ofsted Grades Summer 2025



Appendix F Take up of funded entitlements 2, 3 and 4-year-olds - Summer 2025

Take up of 2-year-olds children from families receiving additional support (FRAS) by area – Summer 2025

2 Year Old Offer -Summer 25 - by Child Post Code

Health Visitor Area	1. Entitled Children	2. Taken up Place	
		In Stockport	%
Adswood	75	53	70.7%
Bramhall	6	6	100.0%
Brinnington	74	80	108.1%
Cheadle Heath	46	34	73.9%
Cheadle Hulme	10	11	110.0%
Gatley Heald Green	38	26	68.4%
Hazel Grove	24	20	83.3%
Heaton Moor	23	17	73.9%
Heaton Norris	45	39	86.7%
Marple	19	13	68.4%
Offerton and Central	86	70	81.4%
Reddish	68	43	63.2%
Stepping Hill	13	12	92.3%
Werneth	64	54	84.4%
		48	
TOTAL	591	526	89.0%

F1 3 & 4-year-old take up of funded entitlements 2024-25

Term	Number of children accessing Uni Hrs	Number of children accessig Ext Hrs	% of children accessing 30 Hours
Summer 24-25	5092	3127	61.41%
Spring 24-25	4404	2687	61.01%
Autumn 24-25	3427	1947	56.81%

F2 - Take up entitlements 9 month to 2-year-old by provider type.

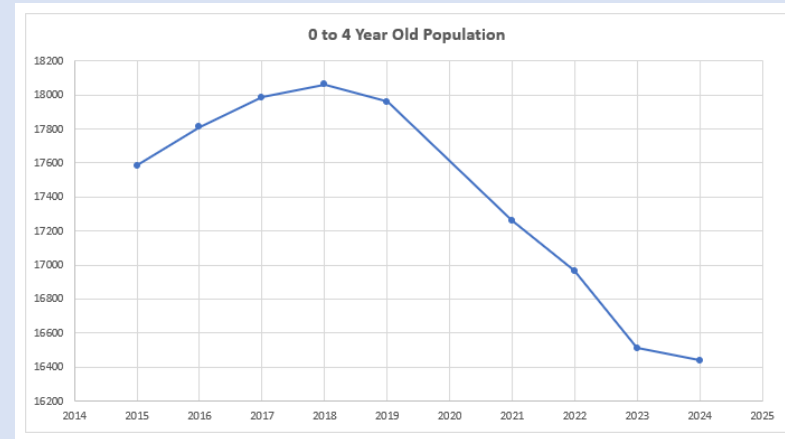
2 YEAR OLD		9 Month old	
FRAS Children		Working	
Child Minder	47	Child Minder	208
Day Nursery	268	Day Nursery	1138
Independent	5	Independent	60
Maintained	60	Maintained	57
Playgroup or Pre-School	146	Playgroup or Pre-School	88
526		1551	
		Working	
		Child Minder	249
		Day Nursery	1459
		Independent	51
		Maintained	0
		Playgroup or Pre-School	32
		1791	

Data taken from 2022 mid population ONS data

Appendix G - Total Stockport population 0-4*

Published Report	0 to 4	Difference from previous year	ONS Data
2024	16438	Down 74	2022
2023	16512	Down 454	2021
2022	16966	Down 295	2020
2021	17261	Down 700	2019
2019	17961	Down 101	2017
2018	18062	up 75	2016
2017	17987	up 174	2015
2016	17813	up 228	2014
2015	17585		2013

G1- Population Graph aged 0-4 years



G2 - Childcare population by area. By age and age groups.

Since 2018 the population of 0 to 4-year-olds has dropped by 1624 which represents an almost 10% drop (9.8%)

Health Visitor Area	Total Children by age		
	0 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 11
Adswood	1257	769	1115
Brinnington	1524	975	1198
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	2172	1702	2392
Gatley Heald Green	2277	1543	2181
Hazel Grove	764	481	706
Heatons	1854	1252	1750
Marple	1433	1043	1406
Offerton and Central	2986	1803	2365
Reddish	1218	751	1014
Werneth	953	595	748
Total 2024	16438	10914	14875

Health Visitor Area	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4
Adswood	253	251	259	216	278
Brinnington	311	273	309	317	314
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	355	412	471	453	481
Gatley Heald Green	430	462	437	463	485
Hazel Grove	142	148	153	154	167
Heatons	357	361	362	375	399
Marple	264	271	264	336	298
Offerton and Central	598	560	609	617	602
Reddish	218	259	250	263	228
Werneth	172	200	229	164	188
Totals	3100	3197	3343	3358	3440

Appendix H - Average Costs of childcare provision summer 2025

2025 average

Provider type	Hourly	Sessional	Daily	Weekly
Day Nursery	£7.96	£44.80	£74.12	£341.38
Pre-School	£7.23	£25.51	£47.69	£231.49
Childminder	£5.53	£35.88	£49.42	£207.61

2025 average increase

Provider type	% increase Hr	% increase Daily	% increase Weekly
Day Nursery	9%	8%	4%
Pre-School	9%	13%	10%
Childminder	5%	6%	5%

Appendix I - Number of weeks open by provider type

Provider type	Number of providers	Less than 38 weeks	Term Time only (38 weeks)	Open all year round (over 38 weeks)
Day Nursery	64	n/a	0.0%	100.0%
Pre-School	22	n/a	100.0%	0.0%
Childminder	220	1.9%	9.5%	88.0%
Ind	8	37.5%	n/a	62.5%

Appendix J - Wraparound Provision within Stockport.

Places recorded on school annual census January 2025

Schools & Before School Clubs

Area	Schools in area	School run before school clubs
Adswood	11	11
Brinnington	3	3
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	16	14
Gatley Heald Green	9	9
Hazel Grove	9	7
Heatons	12	11
Marple	6	4
Offerton and Central	8	8
Reddish	5	5
Werneth	7	5
Grand Total	86	77

Schools & After School Clubs

Area	Schools in area	School run After school clubs
Adswood	11	11
Brinnington	3	
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	16	14
Gatley Heald Green	9	8
Hazel Grove	9	7
Heatons	12	11
Marple	6	4
Offerton and Central	8	5
Reddish	5	5
Werneth	7	5
Grand Total	86	70

Area Private clubs

Area	Private clubs
Adswood	3
Brinnington	1
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	3
Gatley Heald Green	5
Hazel Grove	5
Heatons	2
Marple	3
Offerton and Central	4
Reddish	1
Werneth	3
Grand Total	30

Appendix K - Holiday clubs linked to HAF

Area	No. of club in area	Places
Adswold	8	291
Brinnington	2	205
Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall	1	25
Gatley Heald Green	5	151
Hazel Grove	1	210
Heatons	6	342
Marple	1	80
Offerton and Central	4	260
Reddish	1	142
Werneth	4	111
	33	1817

Appendix L - Send provision in Stockport

Area & Schools	Provision Available
Adswood (Ladybridge Primary School)	There is 1 primary school with an additional resourced unit.
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.
Cheadle Heath (Hollywood Park Nursery)	There is 1 additionally resourced provision within a council nursery.
Cheadle Hulme (Bradshaw Hall Primary School) (Thorn Grove Primary School)	1 primary school with a Deaf Base and 1 with a SALT Unit.
Gatley Heald Green (Oakgrove School) (Meadowbank Primary School) (Etchells Primary School)	There are 2 primary schools with an additionally resourced provision. There is 1 special school for children of primary school age with a statement of Educational Needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
Hazel Grove (Brookside Primary School)	There is 1 primary schools with additionally resourced provision.
Heaton Moor (Charnwood Nursery School) (Heaton School)	Charnwood Nursery School is a private inclusive nursery 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)
Marple (Rose Hill Primary)	There is 1 primary school with an additionally resourced provision.
Offerton and Central (Castle Hill School) (Lisburne School) (Vernon Park Primary School)	There is 1 special school for primary age pupils and 1 for secondary aged pupils with a statement of Special Educational needs (SEN) / Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There is also 1 primary school with a SALT Unit.
Reddish (Vale View Primary School)	There is 1 primary school with an additionally resourced provision.
Stepping Hill (Moorfield Primary School)	There is 1 primary school with an additional resourced unit.
Werneth (St Bernadettes's) (St Paul's) (Bredbury Green Nursery) (Romiley Primary School)	There are 4 additional resourced unit within schools.