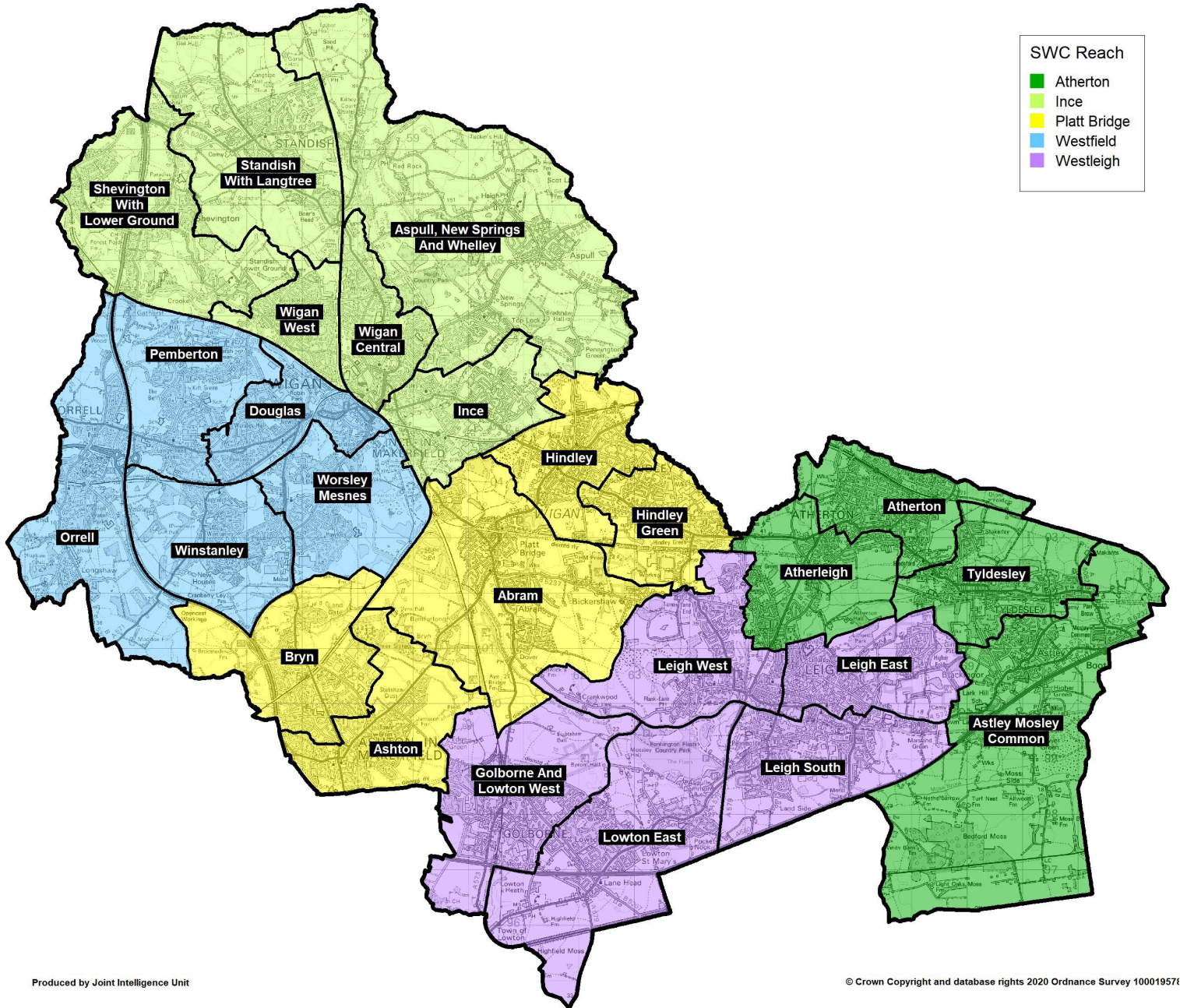


Wigan Childcare Sufficiency Report 2022



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Map of the Wigan Borough, Including Wards and Start Well Family Centres



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of The Report

This report provides baseline data to assist the Council in its duty to manage the local childcare market. To ensure there is sufficient, high quality, flexible and affordable provision to meet the needs of parents and carers. It also provides a helpful resource for existing and potential Early Education and Childcare providers in planning to meet any increased demand for services.

The data cited in the report was captured during the summer term 2022, and as such provides a snapshot of the position at this time. Summer term is the point in the academic year when the demand for childcare is at its highest, therefore, providing a more accurate indicator of overall sufficiency.

Each ward has been RAG rated to reflect if there is sufficient provision or any shortfalls.

1.2 Childcare Sufficiency Duty

Under the terms of the Childcare Act 2006 and subsequent amendments set out in The Childcare Act 2016 and the Department for Education statutory guidance, Local Authorities are required 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 25 for disabled children)
- Secure early years provision free of charge for all three- and four-year olds and eligible two-year olds (570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year)
- Secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare available for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria
- Publish information and provide advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area
- The statutory guidance states that Local Authorities should produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare to Elected Members, and that this should also be made available to the public.

1.3 Local Strategic Priorities

Wigan's priority in relation to early education and childcare is identified with the following strategic priorities from the Excellence in Education Strategy 2020-2030 and SEND Transformation Plan:

- 1) Ensuring a high quality of Education
- 2) Good levels of health and wellbeing for all children
- 3) An education system that is inclusive of all children
- 4) Developing a child friendly borough through strong partnerships
- 5) Preparing young people for successful careers and adulthood

These priorities are underpinned by the Deal 2030 for children and young people which is: All children and young people in the Borough, whatever their age, ability background or type of childcare provider will receive an outstanding Education. This vision is part of the wider Wigan Deal 2030 to ensure the best start in life for all children and young people. Ensuring we have

enough Early Years and Childcare provision for children and their families is pivotal in realising our priorities.

1.4 Methodology and Structure of The Report

Demand for places in early years can be unpredictable making it difficult to predict the number of places need:

- Parents can choose whether they take up an early education place or not
- They can choose where they take up the place, which can be outside of the Wigan Borough
- Whether they take up a place near to where they live, close to their workplace or on their commute to work
- Most families use all the hours available to them (i.e., 15 or 30), some choose to only access part of their entitlement

Childcare can be delivered by childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, school nurseries, breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday clubs. For the purposes of the report when we talk about childcare collectively, we will use the term “childcare providers”.

How Sufficiency Is Calculated

The LA calculate sufficiency by carrying out an assessment of the Early Education and Childcare supply and demand at ward level to identify any potential shortfall in childcare places. Consideration is given to the capacity and take-up of places for funded two, three- and four-year olds. During this calculation, a number of childcare providers have reported that they have temporarily capped the number of places available due to difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff, for this year we have used the capped number of places available to calculate sufficiency in each ward.

For a comparison of the number of Ofsted registered places against current available places see table 2

The Borough is split into twenty-five wards and the purpose of the sufficiency report we have looked at the following at an individual ward level:

- Supply and demand of childcare places
- Flexibility of childcare
- Quality of provision

Data sources used to produce ward profiles include:

- Department of Health birth rate data
- Planning data for housing developments
- Department for Education data identifying 2-year-olds potentially eligible for free childcare
- Headcount returns from private and voluntary providers (PVI)
- School census returns
- Demographic data from the Council’s Joint Intelligence Unit
- Provider and parental questionnaires

1.5 Sufficiency Analysis Assumptions

Calculation of demand for places has been based on the following assumptions:

[Table 1]

Under 2's	% of children requiring a place	Rationale	Data Source
Funded Childcare	NA	NA	NA
Paid Childcare	28%	The number of children taking up a place as a % of number of children under 2 in the borough (total number of children born between summer term 2020 to Summer 2021+)	Children taking up places - Provider survey returns Under 2's population - Joint Intelligence Unit
2 year olds	% of children requiring a place	Rationale	Data Source
Funded Childcare	35%	2 YO funding was aimed at 40% most deprived children, however less children are now being identified by the DfE and the percentage of eligible children is lower	DfE List and local intelligence
Paid Childcare (additional hours to free entitlement)	20%	Based on take up figure from provider survey	Provider survey
Paid Childcare (families not eligible to funded childcare)	35%	Based on take up figure from provider survey	Provider survey
3 & 4 year olds	% of children requiring a place	Rationale	Data Source
Funded Childcare (Universal)	100%	All 3 & 4-year-olds are eligible to universal funded childcare	Birth data - number of children eligible this term calculated from births in following academic terms autumn 16 to spring 18
30 hours for eligible working parents	55%	Based on upward trend from DfE's original estimate of 50%	Headcount returns School Census
Parents eligible to 30 hours buying additional hours	20%	Some working parents will require more than 30 hours childcare	Headcount returns School Census

These assumptions are used to calculate the data in tables insert table/page numbers 5, 6 and 7.

2 Summary of Childcare Places

2.1 Summary of Childcare Places and Sufficiency - Academic Year 2022-23

Based on our assumptions (Table 1) we have analysed the data around available childcare and demand for places. The number of Ofsted registered places for nursery aged children is 8736 compared to the 7618 capped nursery places equates to a reduction of 1118 places (-12.8%). However overall, the Local Authority still remains sufficient for nursery aged children. We will however continue to monitor sufficiency in light of the current challenges facing childcare providers

Comparison of Ofsted registered places against the number of capped places

[Table 2]

Ward	No. of Childcare Places - Ofsted Registered			No. of Childcare Place Based on Current Staffing Levels		
	Under 2 Year Old	2 Year Olds	3 & 4 Year Olds	Under 2 Year Old	2 Year Olds	3 & 4 Year Olds
Astley Mosley Common	198	150	285	198	152	275
Atherleigh	40	65	141	38	64	141
Atherton	85	117	260	82	104	252
Tyldesley	67	93	206	54	81	185
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	45	53	108	33	50	117
Ince	32	79	244	32	79	244
Shevington with Lower Ground	82	84	147	60	66	143
Standish with Langtree	88	89	255	73	85	220
Wigan Central	146	140	281	93	128	264
Wigan West	25	41	130	23	36	130
Abram	33	91	176	23	65	153
Ashton	43	62	103	43	42	84
Bryn	50	69	142	44	57	134
Hindley	98	99	216	33	69	162
Hindley Green	25	36	54	25	36	54
Douglas	30	47	111	27	43	107
Orrell	51	51	151	50	51	160
Pemberton	160	148	223	52	140	218
Winstanley	71	109	237	37	84	237
Worsley Mesnes	42	69	160	37	59	154
Golborne & Lowton West	61	87	194	60	74	168
Leigh East	75	81	168	45	59	168
Leigh South	57	110	179	36	70	171
Leigh West	136	228	337	83	144	274
Lowton East	67	56	167	61	56	167
Total	1807	2254	4675	1342	1894	4382

3 Action Required by the Local Authority

3.1 Business Sustainability

To avoid the loss of existing high quality childcare provision the Local Authority will take the following action:

- Ensure businesses are aware of any financial support available to them both Local and National.
- Promote available training and support, including marketing, leadership and management, and digital opportunities.
- Conduct business health checks to support future planning and necessary preventative actions to avoid being un-sustainable.

- Provide/signpost to accessible online resources and materials to support business planning e.g., cashflow templates and how to guides.
- Advice and support regarding consultation with parents regarding future demand for services.

3.2 Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Early Years Providers are reporting they are experiencing a major staffing shortage, many qualified practitioners have taken the decision to leave the sector and general interest in new people coming into the sector seems to have reduced.

Therefore, the Early Years Team has worked in partnership with the following organisations and has established a working group who have developed a joint action plan to support future recruitment and retention of qualified staff:

- Job Centre Plus
- Schools & Colleges
- Childcare Providers
- Wigan & Leigh College
- GMCA
- Council Teams for Apprenticeships, Economic Development & Skills

Joint Action Plan:

- Promote job and apprenticeship vacancies via job centre plus
- Promote careers in Childcare and Childminding
- Exploring option to provide training units to bridge the gap in Health & Social Care Qualification to enable childcare providers to count staff with this qualification in staff/child ratio's.
- Provide Leadership & Management training programme for Childcare Managers.
- Work with Schools and Colleges to promote student work placements, visits to Childcare Providers and Early Years Exemplar environments.
- Develop links between Early Years team, Childcare Providers and Schools and Colleges – promote attendance at career events.
- Promote available level 2 to existing staff within the sector and those thinking of change of career.
- Promote Apprenticeships and Traineeships for working in Early Years and Childcare – Promote Childcare as theme for National Apprenticeship week 2023

3.3 Quality

- Provide professional development and advice for practitioners and deliver key Early Years, Department of Education (DfE) and Ofsted messages through training, events, and visits.
- Offer training to develop the skills of the workforce and provide targeted projects to support childcare providers to improve outcomes for all children
- Embed the use of 'WellComm' Speech and Language assessment tool across the early years sector
- Provide practitioner networks to share and embed good practice
- Offer targeted support to childcare providers judged by Ofsted to be less than good
- Provide training and support visits to improve leadership and across the sector
- Provide bespoke network and training opportunities for childminders.

3.4 Special Education Need and Disabilities

To ensure all providers remain inclusive and follow the graduated response outlined in the SEND code of practice (2014), the Local Authority will take the following action:

- Support practitioners to identify children's individual needs
- Provide appropriate early years support following assessment
- Work jointly with the Raising Attainment team to ensure children's places are maintained.
- Work collaboratively with other services such as SEND Service Manager, Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language and Physiotherapy through a monthly multiagency inclusion meeting (MIMS).
- Continue to deliver SENCO Award to practitioners in Wigan.
- Provide a range of specialist training to support children's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

4 Data and Information Used to Assess Sufficiency

4.1 Birth Data

The following chart show the latest available data for birth rates.

Birth rate differences Academic Year 2019/20 against 2020/21

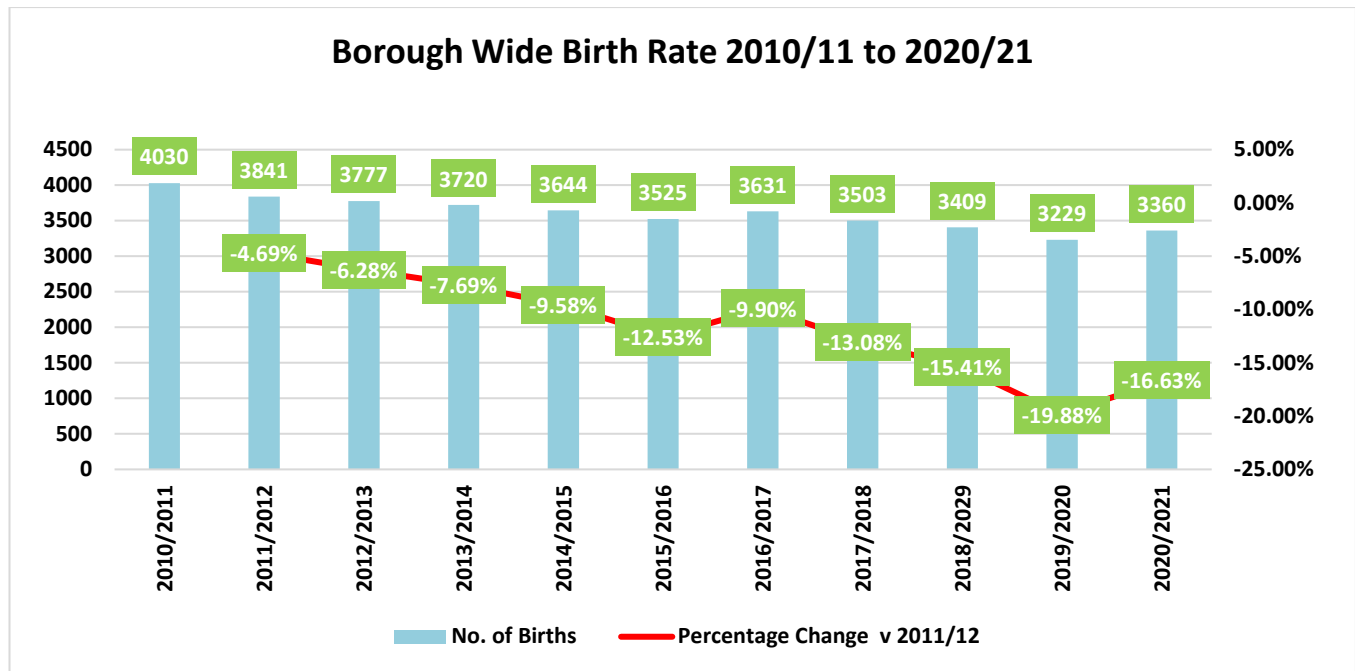
[Table 3]

Ward	No of Births 2019/2020	No of Births 2020/2021	% increase / decrease
Abram	188	187	-0.53%
Ashton	120	76	-57.89%
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	116	127	8.66%
Astley Mosley Common	136	170	20.00%
Atherleigh	137	109	-25.69%
Atherton	189	184	-2.72%
Bryn	78	91	14.29%
Douglas	147	159	7.55%
Golborne & Lowton West	106	110	3.64%
Hindley	137	143	4.20%
Hindley Green	91	113	19.47%
Ince	141	159	11.32%
Leigh East	134	152	11.84%
Leigh South	109	117	6.84%
Leigh West	194	186	-4.30%
Lowton East	124	127	2.36%
Orrell	103	102	-0.98%
Pemberton	167	183	8.74%
Shevington with Lower Ground	95	96	1.04%
Standish with Langtree	131	156	16.03%
Tyldesley	139	138	-0.72%
Wigan Central	96	131	26.72%
Wigan West	140	117	-19.66%
Winstanley	89	106	16.04%
Worsley Mesnes	122	121	-0.83%
Total by Borough	3229	3360	3.90%

The number of births impacts directly on the amount of childcare required; in its simplest form the higher the birth rate the more childcare places will be required. Although other factors such as movement of families in and out of the Borough and housing developments have an impact on the number of childcare places, the birth rate is the major consideration when predicting the number of childcare places required.

Whilst we have seen an increase in birth rates this year overall, the birth rate is still 16.63% lower than it was in 2010 (see table 4 below)

[Table 4]



4.2 What Counts as a Place

- Preschool and school nurseries – 2 children assessing 15 hours per place
- Full day care and childminders – 3 children assessing 15 hours per place
- Where children are accessing the 30 hour offer the ratio of children to places will drop.

4.3 Demand and Vacancies

To identify the level of demand for places during the summer term we have asked providers to provide a percentage fullness figure across each age range.

Percentage fullness and vacancy rates are a snapshot and vary throughout the year, with Autumn term having the lowest demand and increasing in the Spring and Summer terms, by using the summer term as a benchmark we are reflecting the busiest time for childcare providers.

The table below demonstrates the surplus number of places for 0-2's in the Summer term 2022 for each ward. We are unable to project future demand for 0-2's as the latest birth data available at ward level is for the academic year 2020-2021.

Children under 2 years Surplus/Shortfall In Places based on current capped staffing, these figures reflect the increase in birth rate for 2020/21

[Table 5]

Ward	Summer 22
Astley Mosely Common	132
Atherleigh	24
Atherton	71
Tyldesley	48
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	5
Ince	19
Shevington with Lower Ground	45
Standish with Langtree	66
Wigan Central	82
Wigan West	10
Ashton	37
Bryn	35
Hindley	28
Hindley Green	7
Douglas	18
Orrell	46
Pemberton	39
Winstanley	31
Worsley Mesnes	27
Golborne & Lowton West	43
Leigh East	23
Leigh South	24
Leigh West	68
Lowton East	54

The surplus/shortfall in the following tables 6 and 7 have been calculated by predicting the number of childcare places required when children become eligible for funded childcare places based on their date of birth.

The table below demonstrates the surplus/shortfall number of places for 2 year old's in the Summer term 2022 and predicted surplus/shortfall for the next academic year 2022/2023 by ward.

2 Year Old Surplus/Shortfall In Places

[Table 6]

Ward	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Summer 23	Autumn 23
Astley Mosley Common	120	123	112	120
Atherleigh	27	33	29	27
Atherton	33	21	25	33
Tyldesley	58	56	53	58
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	36	32	34	36
Ince	28	24	31	28
Shevington with Lower Ground	48	49	49	48
Standish with Langtree	56	44	61	56
Wigan Central	38	38	40	38
Wigan West	19	8	7	19
Abram	4	9	3	4
Ashton	31	32	32	31
Bryn	25	28	26	25
Hindley	18	12	18	17
Hindley Green	24	19	22	24
Douglas	6	4	-1	6
Orrell	34	36	37	34
Pemberton	18	57	38	18
Winstanley	60	61	63	60
Worsley Mesnes	32	34	34	32
Golborne & Lowton West	34	38	46	34
Leigh East	14	15	15	14
Leigh South	15	20	11	15
Leigh West	81	82	82	80
Lowton East	33	36	35	35

3 & 4 Year Old Surplus/Shortfall In Places

The table below demonstrates the surplus/shortfall number of places for 3 & 4 year old's in the Summer term 2022 and predicted surplus/shortfall for the next academic year 2022/2023 by ward.

[Table 7]

Ward	Summer 22	Autumn 22	Spring 23	Summer 23
Astley Mosley Common	71	177	121	77
Atherleigh	24	69	50	27
Atherton	124	177	139	127
Tyldesley	67	103	88	70
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	64	82	68	65
Ince	131	174	153	134
Shevington with Lower Ground	52	82	67	54
Standish with Langtree	63	119	90	66
Wigan Central	93	153	128	98
Wigan West	48	76	50	50
Abram	13	70	43	17
Ashton	31	48	39	33
Bryn	37	58	32	39
Hindley	45	82	64	48
Hindley Green	-7	12	-2	-5
Douglas	28	64	43	30
Orrell	5	108	54	9
Pemberton	39	82	75	44
Winstanley	114	154	126	117
Worsley Mesnes	79	106	91	80
Golborne & Lowton West	60	98	80	63
Leigh East	43	90	63	46
Leigh South	19	74	47	22
Leigh West	138	187	157	141
Lowton East	56	95	73	59

4.4 Provision Type by Ward

[Table 8]

Ward	Nursery Schools & Classes / Section 27 / Academies	Private Voluntary & Independent Nurseries - Full Day Care	Private Voluntary & Independent Pre Schools - Sessional	Registered Childminders	Breakfast Clubs	After School Clubs	Holiday Schemes
Astley Mosley Common	2	5	0	13	5	4	3
Atherleigh	1	4	0	2	5	5	1
Atherton	3	4	1	7	5	4	2
Tyldesley	3	2	0	20	4	4	1
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	1	2	1	2	5	4	0
Ince	4	2	1	2	5	3	2
Shevington with Lower Ground	2	2	1	4	5	5	2
Standish with Langtree	2	4	1	6	4	4	2
Wigan Central	1	5	2	2	2	2	2
Wigan West	2	2	0	3	3	3	1
Abram	2	1	3	5	6	3	1
Ashton	1	2	1	3	3	3	2
Bryn	1	4	0	1	4	4	3
Hindley	2	3	0	2	5	4	2
Hindley Green	1	1	0	5	1	1	0
Douglas	1	2	0	4	2	2	0
Orrell	1	4	0	5	4	4	3
Pemberton	2	5	2	3	2	3	2
Winstanley	4	1	2	12	9	9	3
Worsley Mesnes	3	2	0	8	2	2	0
Golborne & Lowton West	2	6	0	4	4	4	1
Leigh East	2	4	1	3	4	3	4
Leigh South	1	3	3	4	4	3	0
Leigh West	3	9	0	4	5	4	3
Lowton East	1	1	1	11	5	5	2
Total by Borough	48	80	20	135	103	92	42

4.5 Take Up of Funded Childcare

The take up figures are based on the following:

- 2 year olds, children accessing 2 year old funded places against the number of eligible children predicted by the DFE
- 3 & 4 year olds, all children within the age range as the universal 15 hour offer applies to all 3 & 4 year olds

2 Year Olds

The table below show the percentage take up for 2 year olds for the Summer 2022 term.

[Table 9]

Ward	No. of 2 Yo Identified as Being Potentially Eligible by DFE	Take Up	% Take Up	No attending within a Good or Outstanding Setting	% attending within a Good or Outstanding Setting
Astley Mosley Common	16	10	62.5%	10	100.0%
Atherleigh	30	34	113.3%	33	97.1%
Atherton	78	80	102.6%	78	97.5%
Tyldesley	49	38	77.6%	37	97.4%
Aspull, New Springs And Whelley	36	25	69.4%	23	92.0%
Ince	80	67	83.8%	67	100.0%
Shevington with Lower Ground	14	11	78.6%	10	90.9%
Standish with Langtree	21	22	104.8%	20	90.9%
Wigan Central	28	22	78.6%	22	100.0%
Wigan West	57	41	71.9%	41	100.0%
Abram	95	87	91.6%	87	100.0%
Ashton	21	24	114.3%	24	100.0%
Bryn	28	24	85.7%	24	100.0%
Hindley	42	42	100.0%	41	97.6%
Hindley Green	31	25	80.6%	25	100.0%
Douglas	85	75	88.2%	73	97.3%
Orrell	14	11	78.6%	11	100.0%
Pemberton	92	77	83.7%	76	98.7%
Winstanley	7	9	128.6%	7	77.8%
Worsley Mesnes	38	32	84.2%	31	96.9%
Golborne and Lowton West	34	26	76.5%	26	100.0%
Leigh East	58	54	93.1%	50	92.6%
Leigh South	49	47	95.9%	38	80.9%
Leigh West	83	87	104.8%	67	77.0%
Lowton East	22	24	109.1%	22	91.7%
Total in Borough	1108	994	89.7%	943	94.9%

Total Children accessing two year old funding is 1025 of which 994 live within the borough, 31 of these are from neighbouring Local Authorities.

The table below relates to the 2 year old children living in the 30% most deprived areas.

[Table 10]

Ward	Take Up	Take Up Where Children Are From Families Living Within 30% Most Deprived Areas	Take Up Where Children Are From Families Living Outside 30% Most Deprived Areas
Astley Mosley Common	10	3	7
Atherleigh	34	22	12
Atherton	80	59	21
Tyldesley	38	27	11
Aspull, New Springs And Whelley	25	11	14
Ince	67	67	0
Shevington with Lower Ground	11	3	8
Standish with Langtree	22	10	12
Wigan Central	22	5	17
Wigan West	41	27	14
Abram	87	77	10
Ashton	24	7	17
Bryn	24	15	9
Hindley	42	36	6
Hindley Green	25	5	20
Douglas	75	63	12
Orrell	11	0	11
Pemberton	77	70	7
Winstanley	9	0	9
Worsley Mesnes	32	25	7
Golborne and Lowton West	26	9	17
Leigh East	54	49	5
Leigh South	47	40	7
Leigh West	87	87	0
Lowton East	24	8	0
Total in Borough	994	725	253

725 children living in the 30% most deprived areas equates to 73% of children accessing the 2 year old offer

As can be seen from the Table 10 Wigan has high levels of children accessing the 2 year old offer from the 30% most deprived areas, this highlights the high levels of deprivation in the borough which doesn't only relate to 2 year olds overall with 3637 of the 7825 postcodes in the borough falling in the 30% most deprived classification which equates to 46% of the overall postcodes. Please see table 11 below that shows the numbers and percentages of postcodes in the borough that fall into the 30% most deprived

Percentage of Postcodes in the 30% Most Deprived Areas by Ward

[Table 11]

Ward	1% to 10%	11% to 20%	21% to 30%	Percentage of Postcodes within top 30% most deprived areas
Ince	35.23%	58.29%	6.48%	100.00%
Leigh West	66.41%	17.93%	15.40%	99.75%
Pemberton	42.00%	15.33%	21.67%	79.00%
Abram	28.25%	37.40%	11.63%	77.29%
Atherton	42.78%	9.79%	12.11%	64.69%
Leigh East	54.22%	3.61%	2.71%	60.54%
Worsley Mesnes	15.25%	42.80%	0.00%	58.05%
Hindley	17.38%	9.45%	27.74%	54.57%
Leigh South	10.84%	21.98%	21.36%	54.18%
Douglas	19.17%	26.11%	8.33%	53.61%
Wigan Central	31.65%	0.00%	18.23%	49.88%
Tyldesley	9.23%	21.73%	16.67%	47.62%
Atherleigh	18.96%	21.56%	6.32%	46.84%
Wigan West	13.36%	17.69%	11.91%	42.96%
Golborne and Lowton West	0.00%	20.89%	21.93%	42.82%
Bryn	11.63%	18.99%	0.00%	30.62%
Astley Mosley Common	0.61%	14.68%	10.40%	25.69%
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	1.17%	0.00%	21.70%	22.87%
Hindley Green	0.00%	5.31%	12.39%	17.70%
Shevington with Lower Ground	0.00%	3.67%	9.63%	13.30%
Lowton East	0.00%	0.00%	12.66%	12.66%
Standish with Langtree	0.00%	11.82%	0.00%	11.82%
Ashton	0.00%	0.40%	11.11%	11.51%
Winstanley	0.00%	0.44%	0.00%	0.44%
Orrell	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

3 & 4 Year Olds

The table below show the percentage take up for 3 & 4 year olds for the Summer 2022 term.

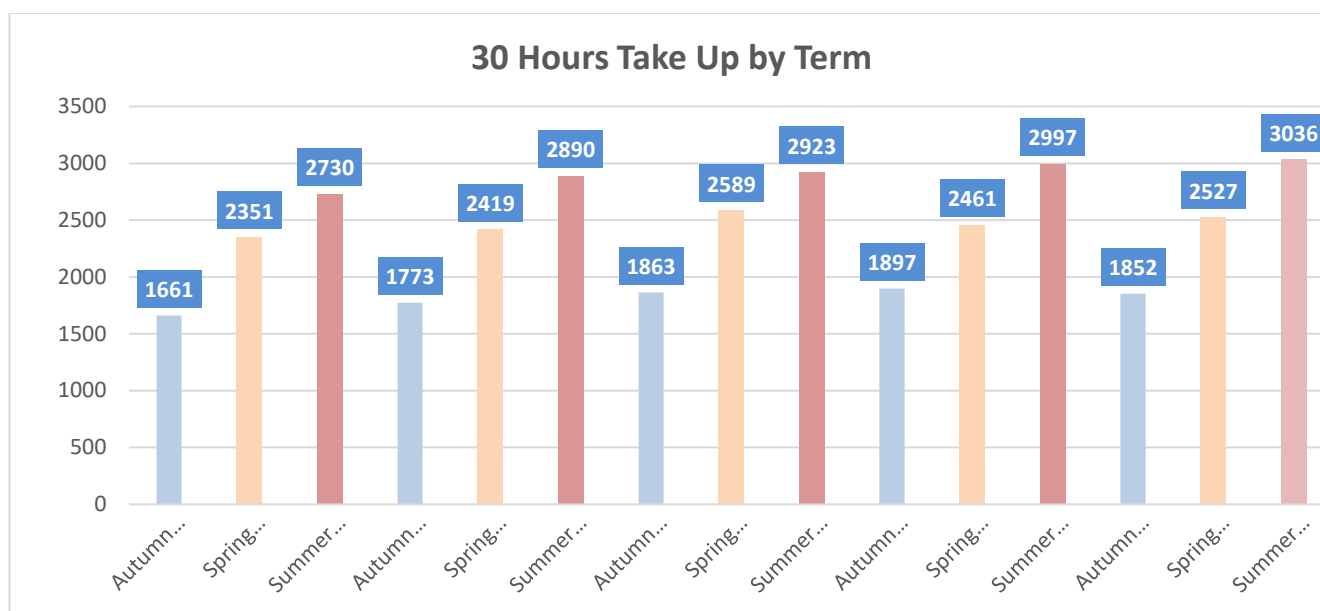
[Table 12]

Ward	Birth Data	3 & 4 Year Old Take Up	Percentage 3 & 4 Year Old Take up	No. of 3 & 4 year olds attending within a Good or Outstanding Setting	% of 3 & 4 year olds attending within a Good or Outstanding Setting
Astley Mosley Common	187	231	123.53%	205	88.74%
Atherleigh	230	186	80.87%	185	99.46%
Atherton	277	236	85.20%	235	99.58%
Tyldesley	238	205	86.13%	195	95.12%
Aspull, New Springs And Whelley	195	171	87.69%	165	96.49%
Ince	273	256	93.77%	256	100.00%
Shevington with Lower Ground	170	138	81.18%	131	94.93%
Standish with Langtree	192	193	100.52%	168	87.05%
Wigan Central	163	157	96.32%	153	97.45%
Wigan West	233	195	83.69%	191	97.95%
Abram	304	279	91.78%	275	98.57%
Ashton	165	141	85.45%	133	94.33%
Bryn	131	140	106.87%	131	93.57%
Hindley	260	180	69.23%	180	100.00%
Hindley Green	171	161	94.15%	154	95.65%
Douglas	290	260	89.66%	233	89.62%
Orrell	179	148	82.68%	146	98.65%
Pemberton	295	280	94.92%	262	93.57%
Winstanley	175	157	89.71%	140	89.17%
Worsley Mesnes	209	182	87.08%	149	81.87%
Golborne and Lowton West	192	166	86.46%	153	92.17%
Leigh East	220	235	106.82%	219	93.19%
Leigh South	231	228	98.70%	195	85.53%
Leigh West	328	294	89.63%	264	89.80%
Lowton East	160	201	125.63%	199	99.00%

Total Children accessing three & four year old funding is 5230 of which 5020 live within the borough, 210 are from neighbouring LA's.

The table below shows the take up of the 30 hours childcare offer for working families, this shows the trend that is increasing year on year.

[Table 13]



4.6 Parental Feedback

In summer 2022 we asked parents to feedback on their experiences of accessing childcare in Wigan. We received a total of 130 responses from parents.

Common Themes

- Parents stated that quality of provision was the most important factor they considered when choosing childcare, with cost of childcare being the 2nd most important factor
- The majority of parents said they had no difficulties finding suitable childcare, although some said they had encountered some difficulties.
- 61% of parents who responded said they would access more childcare hours if the cost was lower
- 33% of parents said they used one of the “help with childcare costs schemes”, the most popular being Tax Free Childcare.

Parental Comments

We asked parents if they had any comments on the childcare offer in Wigan, the following points were highlighted:

- More info/guidance/awareness for new parents needs to be provided. When should we apply for preschools/primary schools/tax free childcare etc.?
- Need more help for childcare. Private companies are so expensive, it's making it hard for parents, especially lone parents to go back to work
- The cost is the main concern. I'm also worried that there aren't many holiday clubs near me for when he starts school
- Working parents need more help in summer holidays - not enough provision
- Biggest issue is cover for the school holidays; holiday clubs mainly run 9-3 this isn't viable working hours 9-5. Need to use annual leave or if ran out unpaid leave.
- I am so happy my babies have good people in nursery 'honey bears ' they are fantastic.

Action to be Taken

- Provide more information regarding help with the cost of childcare to childcare providers, job centre plus to encourage them to promote with parents.
- Promote tax free childcare and other help with the cost of childcare via Our Town Community Directory (formerly Family Directory).
- Identify gaps in holiday provision and approach schools/providers to explore opportunities to provide more holiday places were needed, collaborative working and cluster approach.
- Work collaboratively with other programmes such as Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

5 Quality and Ofsted Outcomes

5.1 Quality

The revised Early Years Framework has been statutory for all Early years providers since September 2021. All childcare providers regulated and are subject to an inspection, providers registered with Ofsted will receive either an inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding inspection outcome. Childcare providers inspected by Ofsted are judged on the four categories below receiving a judgement against each of the categories which feed into the overall inspection grade awarded.

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management

Childminders can also register with a childminder agency, the agency will be inspected by Ofsted and receive an effective or ineffective outcome, individual childminders registered with an agency will be inspected by their agency and graded against appropriate standards.

Funding will be removed if a provider is judged to be **Inadequate** by Ofsted, unless it is in an area of the borough that is not sufficient for childcare places. The LA will support parents to find alternative provision.

Funding will continue for providers judged to be **Require Improvement** for all 3 and 4 year olds, 2 year old funding will continue for children who were with the provider at the time of the Ofsted inspection but no new funded 2 year olds children can be admitted.

Ensuring that providers maintain Good and Outstanding outcomes is essential to guarantee we have sufficient childcare in Wigan to meet the needs of working parents and to provide the best start for our children.

In response to COVID 19, focus has been on areas significantly impacted, including early communication and language development and children's personal, social, and emotional development. The team continues to work in partnership with parents/carers, Early Years providers and partner professionals to develop high quality early learning and care.

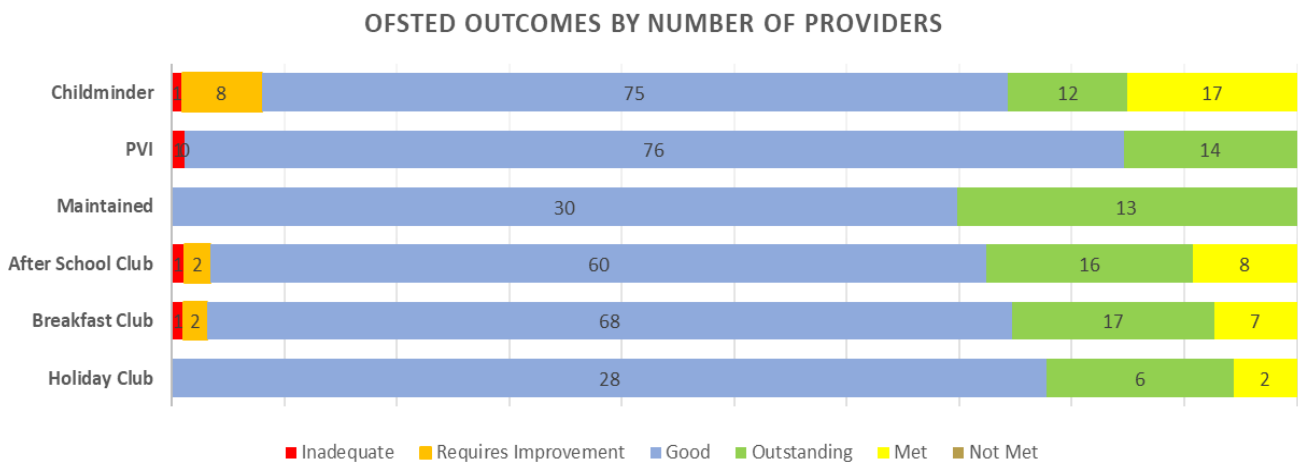
5.2 Ofsted Outcomes

The two charts below show the Ofsted inspection outcome figures for all provider types, one chart shows the number of providers and the other the percentage of providers against each inspection judgment.

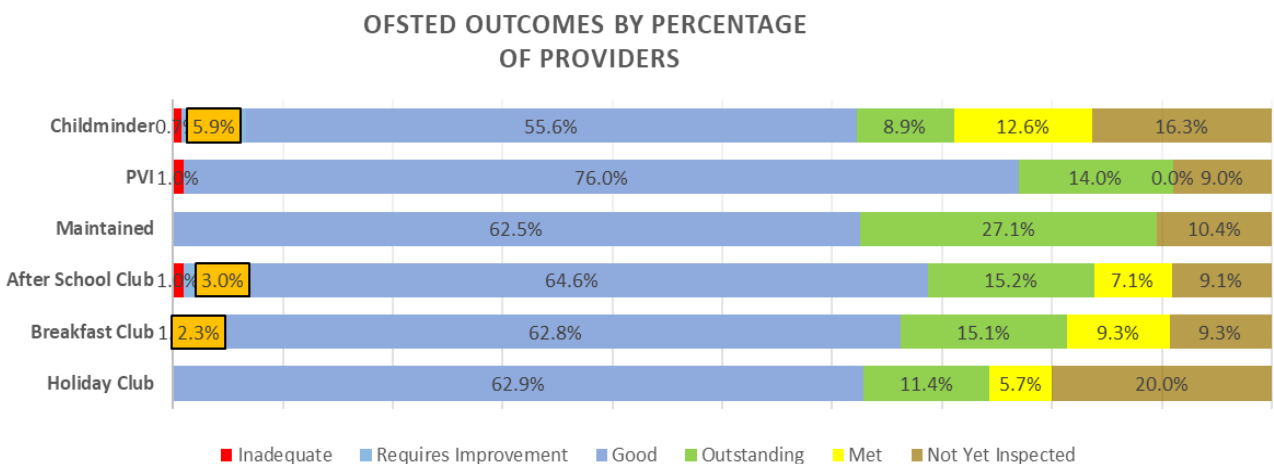
Childminders and independent out of school clubs:

- Childminders registered on the Early Years Register – no children present on day of inspection will only be awarded a Met or Not Met grading.
- Childminders registered on the Childcare Register - do not provide care for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage age range and would not receive a full inspection outcome and would be awarded a Met or Not Met grade
- Out of School Clubs will only be awarded a Met or Not Met grading regardless of which register they are on. (For those inspected under the previous inspection framework they will still have a graded inspection outcome of Inadequate, Requires Improvement, Good or Outstanding)
- We have one childminder agency operating in Wigan that has been graded as effective by Ofsted

[Table 14]



[Table 15]



6 Supporting Children With Special Educational Needs or Disability To Access Childcare

All early year's providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with Special Education Needs or Disabilities and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care as defined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

Portage Service – Portage is a home teaching service for young children where there are concerns about their development. In Wigan we also provide Portage groups that enable families to network and allow children to access a nursery style environment to support their transition into an early years provision. Both the home teaching service and groups help parents and children to play and learn together.

Identification of Need - The Early Years team provide assessment to support the identification of need, training, advice, and guidance to support providers to follow the graduated approach to meet need of child with SEND. Targeted Individual Support is available where eligibility criteria are met.

Early Years Support - Children with SEND are supported with additional resources if appropriate in the form of: Early Years Support - this is allocated using a banding system which includes access to training, support visits from a SEND Officer using a modelling and coaching approach and/ or funding depending on the needs of the child and the provider.

Early Years Additional Resources - This resource enables the Local Authority to consider funding for a child who is due to access mainstream school and is provided up to the first term of Year 1. As part of this application consideration is also made for an Education, Health, and Care plan assessment.

Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) - Funding is available through DCATCH for working families whose children have SEND and are accessing Out of School Club provision, including holiday club. It provides the provision with additional funding to enable them to put in place support required to meet the child's needs. This does not cover the cost of the place. DCATCH is for children aged 3 to 11years.

Disability Access Funding (DAF) - Funding to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. The DAF aids access to Early Years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision.

Three and four-year old children may be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and
- The child receives universal or extended free early education and childcare entitlement.
- The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child.
- Funding is paid at the fixed annual rate of £800 per eligible child.

If a child who is eligible for DAF, is splitting their universal hours across two or more providers, the parent must nominate one of the providers to receive the DAF funding as this cannot be split.

7 Supplementary Information

7.1 Flexibility of Places Offered

Childcare providers can be flexible in how they use the space within their provision and can increase or decrease the number of places offered in each age range providing they meet Ofsted space and staffing ratios. This gives childcare providers flexibility to meet the changing demands of parents.

The opening times of childcare providers varies across providers with some offering full day care and some morning and afternoon sessions that are more in line with school opening hours

We have a mixture of pre schools and full daycare providers, sessional providers seven childminders, full daycare providers typically open between 7:30 and 18:00 and are open an average of 10.5 hours per day, sessional providers are open for an average of 6.5 hours. childminders are open an average of 10 hours per day

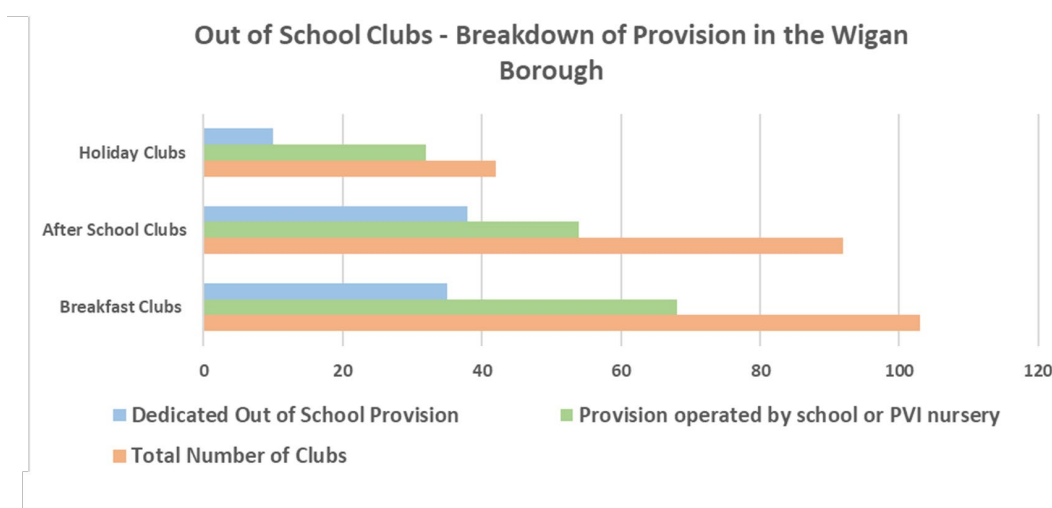
The Local Authority encourages providers to consult with parents and consider their requests where possible.

7.2 Out of School Provision

The Local Authority does not have access to the numbers of children accessing out of school clubs across the Borough. There are currently 103 breakfast clubs, 92 after school clubs and 42 holiday clubs operating, they are a mixture of dedicated out of school clubs and clubs operated by school and private providers offering this wrap around care option.

Breakdown of out of school provision

[Table 16]



Comparison to 2021

- The number of breakfast clubs has dropped from 104 to 103
- The number of afterschool clubs has dropped from 92 to 89

- The number of holiday clubs has increased from 34 to 42

Whilst the number of holidays clubs has increased, providers often state that these are demand based and whilst they are registered clubs, they may not operate for all the school holidays if the numbers of children registering to attend is low, some only operate certain holiday periods, most close at Christmas and some may operate 4 or 5 weeks in the summer holidays

Average Cost & Opening Hours for Out of School Provision

[Table 17]

Type	Average Cost	Average Open Hours per Day
Breakfast club	£5.81 per session	1.25hrs
Afterschool club	£9.36 per session	2hrs
Holiday club	£115.38 per week	10.5hrs

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

DfE has provided the Local Authority with funding to co-ordinate free holiday provision for eligible children, the programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children.

7.3 Cost of Childcare

National Costs of Childcare

Every year the Coram Family and Childcare (formerly the Family and Childcare Trust) gathers information from every local authority on the cost of childcare in their area. The Annual Childcare Cost Survey is then published and highlights how the cost of childcare varies across the country.

Price of 25 hours a week childcare for by age.

[Table 18]

Area	25 Hours Per Week		25 hours a week, including universal entitlement (paying 10 hours)
	Under 2's	2 Year Olds	3 & 4 Year Olds
England	£140.68	£135.28	£54.10
Northwest	£129.74	£125.69	£49.28
Wigan	£126.00	£126.92	£44.06

7.4 Brokerage

The Local Authority offers a brokerage service which aims to support parents to find childcare and overcome barriers in accessing childcare.

Potential barriers for parents finding childcare:

- Working hours/shift patterns
- Different ages of children requiring a mix of childcare options
- Specific needs of individual children
- Ad hoc childcare at short notice

From the beginning of the academic year 2021/2022 we have received twelve requests for brokerage support 8 of which relating to nursery provision and 4 were for school age children looking for out of school provision. All requests for support were successful.

7.5 Impact of New Housing

Table 20 outlines the potential number of housing developments in the Borough over the next five years and the potential nursery place required due to the developments.

School place planning methodology assumes a pupil yield of 3 x school places per school class per 100 x dwellings developed, we have reflected this approach to predict the number of potential nursery places needed based on these housing developments even though unlike school age children 0 to 5 year olds are not required by law to take up a childcare place

We do not have the year-on-year dates that the housing developments will be completed or become occupied. However, our sufficiency projections in tables 6, 7 and 8 forecasts available childcare places up to Summer 23, if all planned housing developments came to fruition within this timeframe, we predict we would have enough available vacancies to accommodate the potential childcare places required due to the developments in all wards should we maintain the current number of available places.

It should also be noted that although these housing developments have full planning permission, construction has not yet started on 35 of the developments and we cannot be sure that all of these houses will be built, also a significant number are part of the Galleries redevelopment, 483 of the 641 dwellings in Wigan Central Ward and these are not likely to be aimed at families.

Housing Developments with Full Planning Permission

[Table 19]

Ward	Housing Developments 2022 to 2027	Number of potential nursery places required due to developments
Astley Mosley Common	404	13
Atherleigh	218	7
Atherton	66	2
Tyldesley	41	2
Aspull, New Springs & Whelley	62	2
Ince	312	10
Shevington with Lower Ground	0	0
Standish with Langtree	814	25
Wigan Central	641	20
Wigan West	135	5
Abram	171	6
Ashton	40	2
Bryn	161	5
Hindley	35	2
Hindley Green	13	1
Douglas	88	3
Orrell	24	1
Pemberton	87	3
Winstanley	180	6
Worsley Mesnes	3	1
Golborne & Lowton West	252	8
Leigh East	126	4
Leigh South	439	14
Leigh West	802	25
Lowton East	360	11

7.6 Free Early Education and Childcare Places For 2, 3 & 4 Year Olds

Two Year Olds

A child will be entitled to the free hours from the term the following their 2nd birthday and the family meets the eligibility criteria shown in the attached link.

[2-year-old funding information and eligibility criteria](#)

Three and Four Year Olds

Universal Entitlement

All three and four year old children are entitled to 570 hours free early years education and childcare a year This early education needs to be taken over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year starting the term after the child turns three.

In addition, some children will be eligible to an additional 15 hours per week under the extended childcare for three and four year olds of working parents

More details on 3 & 4 year old funding and the criteria for the extended 30 hours over can be accessed via the link below

[3 & 4-year-old funding information and eligibility criteria for 30 hours](#)

7.7 Additional Support to Help to Meet the Costs of Childcare

In addition to the free early education offers there are a number of schemes in place to help parents meet the costs of childcare, please see the link below for further information

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/childcarechoices