

Worcestershire County Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019

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Contact: Jenny Haines, jhaines1@worschildrenfirst.org.uk

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Introduction

Since the 2006 Childcare Act, families with three and four year olds children, in England are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year, beginning in the term after their third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age. This universal offer was introduced to support child development and school readiness.

In 2013 this was extended to eligible families from the term following the child's second birthday. These families are principally from disadvantaged backgrounds and this offer supports the child. It has recently been extended to children whose families have no recourse to public funds, and those with Zambrano carers.

From September 2017, the free early education entitlement was doubled for eligible families with three and four year olds to equal a total of 1,140 hours per year, over a minimum of 38 weeks of the year, known as '30 hours'. This extended offer was introduced to support working families as one of the eligibility criteria states that parent(s) must be working at least 16 hours per week on minimum wage. The maximum a parent can earn is £100,000 per annum.

These funded hours can be used in any Ofsted registered setting, with a funding agreement. This includes school nurseries, childminders and the private, voluntary and independent sector.

Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high-quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.

The role of the Local Authority

The Childcare Act 2006 outlines a number of duties of the local authorities in their role to ensure the childcare market can meet the needs of families and support parents back to work, education, or training.

The first of these duties is to secure, as far as is reasonably possible, early years education provision that is accessible, flexible, inclusive and provided through a range of settings to meet parental demand for childcare for 2,3, and 4-year-olds.

The second is to ensure compliance with local and national nursery education funding requirements and support market development to allow eligible children to access their free entitlement in line with legislation.

The final duty is to ensure that there is enough information for families in accessing childcare, and that this is clear and easily available.

To meet these aims, the local authority must assess and map the supply of childcare against the anticipated demand in the market, which should then inform the strategic direction of the authority. This report is made public each year on the County Council web-site.

Purpose and scope of the report

This report seeks to inform on the current sufficiency of childcare for families in Worcestershire, and to provide clarity of the role played by the local authority to meet the first duty: to secure sufficient childcare ensuring families can take up their entitlement of funded hours. The report will provide a detailed analysis of the funded childcare market in Worcestershire using five criteria – accessible, flexible, inclusive, provided through a range of settings, and for families to be able to find information and apply for places.

Methodology

A data review is undertaken each term, to review eligible children, demand from families and supply of places from Early Years providers registered with Ofsted. This review considers the details in each ward within the County. A ward is the primary unit of English electoral geography for civil parishes and borough and district councils. This smallest political area used nationally allows comparison with LSOA deprivation areas and other local authorities as well as allowing the review to consider local provision for children.

A place has been defined as 15 hours per week so that 1 child eligible for early education is entitled to 1 place. Three and four year olds entitled to 30 hours are therefore entitled to 2 places under this metric. Only providers with an Ofsted rating of 'Good' or 'Outstanding', or new providers who are yet to be assessed, have been considered in this sufficiency assessment under the directive to ensure a sufficiency of good places.

In order to measure the sufficiency of the market to meet the wider needs of families, this report also draws on a number of other data sources, such as results from the Worcestershire Parent/Carer Childcare Survey 2018 and discussions; current Worcestershire demographics; and experiences from teams working directly with families and providers in Worcestershire.

The Worcestershire Parent/Carer Childcare Survey 2018 was used to consult with parents and carers in Worcestershire with pre-school children aged 2-4 to find out their needs and experiences across Worcestershire. The responses from the survey were representative of the population in terms of ethnicity, geographic split (although Redditch was slightly under-represented), and family type. For further information on the survey and the results – please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency

Demographics of Worcestershire

Worcestershire is a mix of rural and urban areas, divided into six district authorities: Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Worcester City, Wychavon, and Wyre Forest.

Household income

The annual average household income in Worcestershire is just over £41,800, which is above the regional and national average. Annual household income at a district level is lowest in Wyre Forest and is similar to the national average in both Worcester City and Redditch. The highest average household income is in Bromsgrove.

Table 1 – Average (mean) annual household income by district (CACI Paycheck)

District	2017	2019
Bromsgrove	£47,044	£ 47,383
Malvern Hills	£42,114	£ 42,723
Redditch	£37,695	£ 39,749
Worcester	£38,057	£ 39,963
Wychavon	£43,876	£ 43,443
Wyre Forest	£35,875	£ 37,569
Worcestershire	£40,809	£ 41,811
West Midlands Region	£35,050	£ 36,716
Great Britain	£38,858	£ 39,964

Index of multiple deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. It ranks every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area) and is usually presented as deprivation 'deciles': bands of 10%. The small areas used are called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA). They are designed to be of a similar population size with an average of 1,500 residents each

It combines information from seven domain indices (which measure different types or dimensions of deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

In 2018 Worcestershire had 16 LSOA's in the top 10% of most deprived areas in the Country. This year there are 18 areas in that group.

There are 8 in Worcester, 5 in Redditch, 4 in Wyre Forest, and 1 in Malvern Hills. There are none in Wychavon and Bromsgrove. This relative deprivation will reflect in the number of 2-year-olds eligible for free places, and those families likely to be entitled to 30-hours in each district.

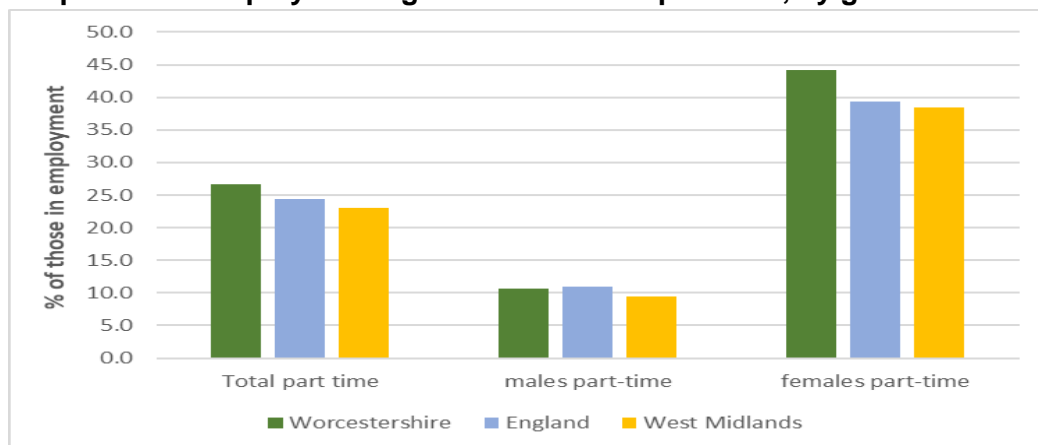
Economic Activity

The dominant employment sectors in Worcestershire are Health, Manufacturing and Retail. Since 2010/11 the employment rate for Worcestershire has generally followed a slight

increasing trend and unemployment and inactivity rates have fallen. The proportion of the population aged 16-64 in employment in Worcestershire is estimated to be 78.2%, which is similar to the rate in the whole of England of 75.8%. The employment rate among males in Worcestershire is 82.0%, and among females is 71.2%.

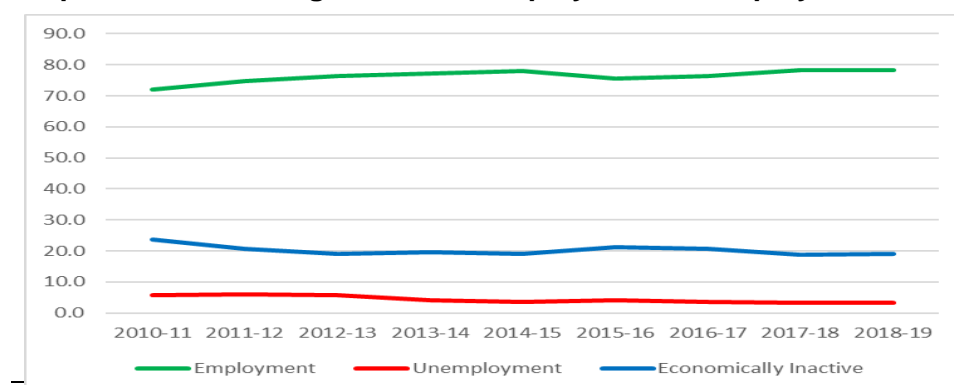
The proportion of people working full time in Worcestershire is estimated to be 73%, with the proportion of people working in part time jobs estimated to be 27%, which has remained relatively unchanged since 2010/11. This is similar to that seen across the West Midlands and England. An estimated 44% of working women are employed part-time compared with only 11% of working men, a similar pattern to that seen regionally and nationally. This is likely a result of families unable to manage both parents working full time, and a higher percentage of females working part-time to manage family life.

Proportion in employment aged 16-64 that are part time, by gender¹



In Worcestershire an estimated 67,000 people, or 19.1% of the population aged 16-64, are classed as economically inactive, in that they are neither employed nor looking for work, which is similar to the rate witnessed nationally. Approximately 15,500 people, or 23% of the economically inactive in Worcestershire, state looking after family as the reason for economic inactivity, whilst 16,200 people (24% of the economically active in the county) state that having a long-term illness was the reason for economic activity. The chart below shows the relationship between employment, unemployment and economic inactivity.

Proportion of those aged 16-64 in employment, unemployment or inactive²



¹ Annual Population Survey, year ending June 2019

² Annual Population Survey, year ending June 2019

Childcare for 5-14 year olds

The Early Education and childcare statutory guidance states that 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)³.

This information is accessible to parents on the Local Authorities' website. The data currently shows that there are many options, across all districts offering childcare for children aged 5 to 14 years old. Some of these setting may also be offering early education and therefore be counted more than once in the overall total for the Authority.

Type of childcare	B'grove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	W'ter	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	Out of County	Total
Out of School Care	31	27	24	21	40	27	1	171
Holiday Scheme	21	14	9	16	19	15		94
WrapAround Care	1				2	3		6
Breakfast Club	29	29	29	27	42	29		185
Childcare on Non-Domestic Premises	6	3	3	8	14	2	1	37
Home Childcarer	10	6	1	1	11	1	12	42
Nursery class for child with SEND	4		3	5	4	3		19
Special Needs Playschemes	4		2	3	1	3	1	14
Other	4	1	5	8	10	5	2	35
Grand Total	110	80	76	89	143	88	17	603

This data will be confirmed with the settings registered for tax-free childcare, the voluntary childcare register, and local schools over the coming year. This along with continued strengthening of links with family support partners, including the FIS, will ensure that parents can continue to receive support to find the childcare when needed and that complete and accurate information is available from one source.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

Sufficiency of Early Years Childcare

Number of places

To meet the needs of families in Worcestershire, there are 1,267 providers (Summer 2019) offering childcare for 2,3 and 4-year-olds. Of these 434 offer funded early years education places to 2-year olds (430 in 2018) and 548 (550 in 2018) offer funded places for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds.

	TOTAL	NEF registered (2 year olds)	NEF registered (3 and 4 year olds)	Percentage of total	NEF registered (extended hours)	Percentage of total
Childminder	343	177	210	61%	189	55%
Day nursery	136	121	131	96%	123	90%
Pre-School Playgroup	94	87	94	100%	78	83%
Governor Led Nursery	40	24	38	95%	34	85%
Maintained Nursery Class	29	8	29	100%	21	72%
Academy Nursery Class	22	11	22	100%	21	95%
Out of Sch Care	171	0	4		4	
Holiday Scheme	94	1	3		2	
WrapAround Care	6	0	0		0	
Breakfast club	185	0	0		0	
Other	147	5	17		8	
All	1,267	434	548	92%	480	80%

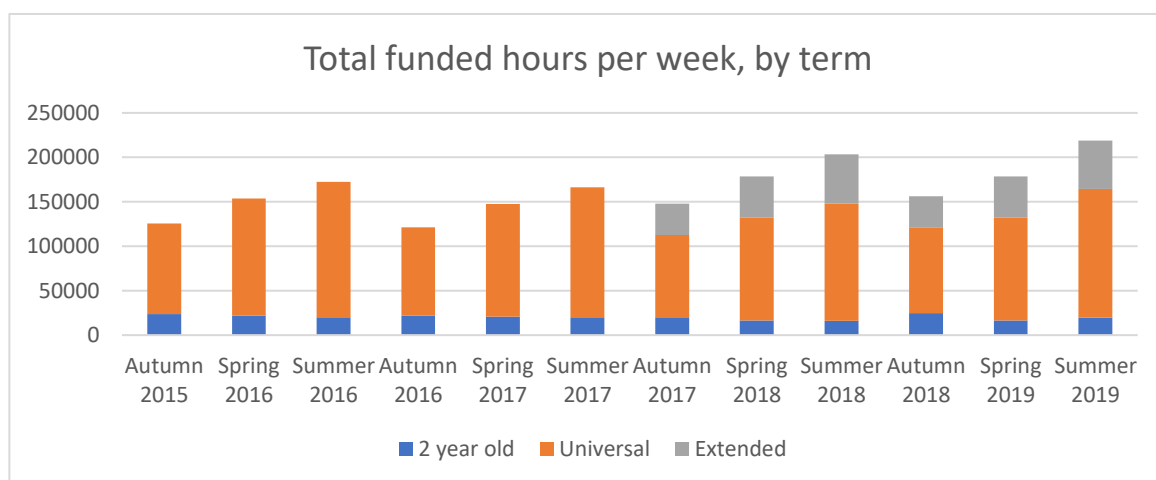
There are 111 primary and first schools in the County so at least 20 must rely solely on PVLs or childminders to provide childcare for families prior to admission. There has been no real change in the number of setting operating within the County in the last 12 months.

By looking at the opening hours and the maximum number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children that can be cared for at any one time in settings accepting funded children, the number of places can be calculated. This is shown in the table below.

District	Child minder	Day nursery	Pre-School Playgroup	Governor Led Nursery	Maintained Nursery Class	Academy Nursery Class	Other
Bromsgrove Total	170	2,170	610	71	145	150	192
Malvern Hills Total	94	1,180	713	278	0	26	0
Redditch Total	91	1,558	652	60	39	104	0
Worcester Total	170	1,550	530	270	0	441	92
Wychavon Total	207	1,398	1,205	362	0	0	43
Wyre Forest Total	263	943	515	408	264	281	7
Grand Total	995	8,800	4,224	1,449	449	1,002	334

Source: Synergy data collected January 2019

The number of funded hours needed at Early Years settings increases term by term over the academic year as a result of those children turning 4 only being admitted to school at the start of the Autumn term. This is shown below, by the peak every Autumn Term.



The

200,000 funded hours, per week, equate to nearly 13,500 15-hour-places available in the childcare market. The difference this year, between Autumn and Summer terms is approximately, 50,000 hours per week, or 3,300 15-hour-places. This amounts to a substantial variation in capacity and huge impact on revenue for Early years providers. This flexibility in the market shows that places are created and absorbed during each year, on an on-going basis.

Take-up rates - 2-year-old benefiting from some funded education

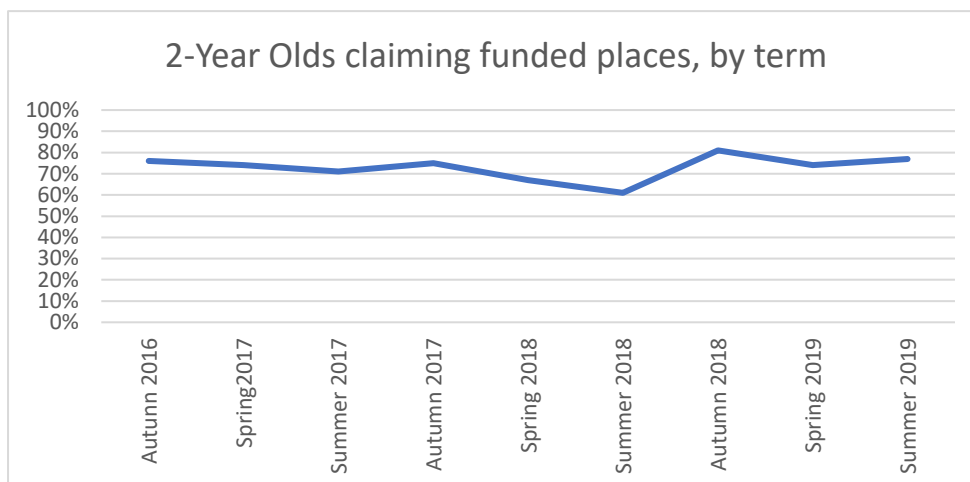
Two year old children are eligible for funded education is based on the actual number claiming as a proportion of those eligible in November 2016. In 2019, this changed to include universal credit claimants.

2-year-olds	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Worcestershire	60%	75%	67%	63%	70%
Statistical neighbours	65%	73%	77%	77%	73%
England	58%	68%	71%	72%	68%

Source: LAIT tool 7.10.2019

A list of potential eligible children is sent by DWP 7 times per year and looks at those families claiming benefits including child benefit and the age of that child. In Worcestershire, each family listed is send a postcard to offer them the opportunity to confirm their eligibility for a free place

and then the data is forwarded to the Family Information service to follow up. The list is used the following term, with the local list of children claiming their entitlement to produce local take-up rates.



This local take-up rate shows a higher percentage claiming each Autumn term to the corresponding Summer term. This may be due to the calculation of eligible children (economic situation). It may also be due to advertising and marketing activities or the increase in demand for 3 and 4-year-old places, reducing the number of places for 2-year-olds and further work is needed to determine this. However, year on year the percentage for the Autumn term is higher than the nationally calculated take-up rate.

2YO take up (%age of eligible children)			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2016/2017	76%	74%	71%
2017/2018	75%	67%	61%
2018/2019	81%	74%	77%

2YO take up - Number of children			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2016/2017	1,519	1,456	1,411
2017/2018	1,407	1,246	1,140
2018/2019	1,325	1,201	1,262

Take up rates - Universal offer

National data on Percentage of 3-and 4-year-olds benefiting from some free early education.

3&4-year-olds	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Worcestershire	102%	100%	98%	96%	99%
Statistical neighbours	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%
England	95%	95%	94%	94%	94%

Source; LAIT 7.10.2019

The rates can exceed 100% due to inward migration from other Authorities. In June 2019, 10% of children claiming funded places in Worcestershire live outside of the County's post codes. particularly in Birmingham and Warwickshire.

The take-up rates are monitored locally, by term and by age and by universal and extended entitlement. A model has been built that confirms children claiming free places with known children. The know children need to exclude those children now attending Reception class and those children that although 3 years old are not yet eligible for a free place.

Children born between 1st September and 31st December (4-month period) can only claim their free place from 1st January (the term after their 3rd birthday) so the number of 3 year olds on 1st September may not all be eligible for a free place.

The model is tracking trends, allowing like for like comparisons. By greater details being held, easier targeting of eligible groups is possible.

3YO universal take up			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2015/2016	97%	96%	90%
2016/2017	98%	98%	96%
2017/2018	101%	99%	94%
2018/2019	106%	103%	103%

3YO extended take up (based on eligible children)			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2015/2016			
2016/2017			
2017/2018	72%	69%	69%
2018/2019	78%	78%	76%

4YO universal take up			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2015/2016	5%	41%	67%
2016/2017	5%	39%	63%
2017/2018	5%	38%	62%
2018/2019	5%	39%	65%

4YO extended take up (based on eligible children)			
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2015/2016			
2016/2017			
2017/2018	0%	26%	45%
2018/2019	1%	29%	50%

Further investigation will now be done to look at the percentage of eligible children for the extended entitlement. From national figures, those families requesting validity codes, 98% use them.

	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019
Codes Issued	2,881	4,152	4,775	3,138	4,396	5,287
Codes Validated	2,837	4,081	4,677	3,079	4,274	5,098
% of Issued Codes validated	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	96%
Children in a 30 hours place in the County	2,911	3,840	4,570	3,181	4,464	5,080
Children in a 30 hours place as a percentage of codes issued (%)	101.0%	92.5%	95.7%	101.4%	101.5%	96.1%

There is a very strong termly pattern, with many more children using free places in the Summer term. The use of free funded hours from 3 and 4-year olds children has increased from 4,570 children in Summer 2018 to 5,080 in Summer 2019 (increase of 510 children). This additional demand has been delivered by the childcare market, a sign of a dynamic and successful early years market. This demand may have come from within the local authority or may be a result of net migration from surrounding authorities.

School forecasts show that for the next 3 years, admissions are not expected to be higher than the current level. We will therefore assume that the number of 3 and 4 year olds will remain similar.

Live birth rate and general fertility rate analysis by Public Health using the linear trend function, predict a slow increase in live births from 6,000 to 6,200 by 2022. This will be impacted by development of new homes and migration rates at wards on the borders with other local authorities, particularly Birmingham and Warwickshire.

We have a new policy for seeking education contributions from developers which will include mitigating the impact on increased demand for nursery places from any new housing developments. This will be implemented for all new planning applications after 1st September 2019.

Opening hours and availability

Funded childcare is provided to support parents back into work. Due to the variety of shift patterns and employment contracts, this childcare needs to be flexible and adaptable. This is provided by a market place that has many types of providers with a clear offer to parents, covering locations near work places and homes as well as various opening times including at weekends and early mornings.

The universal offer available to all children the term after their third birthday is for 570 hours per annum. This is usually taken as 15 hours per week over 38 weeks, matching the school calendar. However, families are now able to stretch their entitlement over a longer period by reducing the number of hours taken each week. It cannot be increased to over 15 hours per week. In Summer 2019, 20% of children accessing funded hours stretched their entitlement (beyond the 13 weeks of that term). (17% in 2018).

In June 2019, 49% of NEF providers offered stretched funding (45% in June 2018) an indication that providers are adapting their offer to meet the needs of families.

There is a wide range of providers across the whole County and this gives a good choice to parents. Only high quality settings should be offering funded places. This quality judgement is assessed by Ofsted as good or outstanding. Funding is not removed following a low quality judgement if sufficiency of places, for similar age range, and hours, is not available.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Under the Equalities Act 2010, local authorities must ensure they promote equality and inclusion, by removing barriers of access to funded childcare. This is done by working with parents to know what is available to them, and by working with providers to support and promote best practice. It is important to secure multi-agency focus on local partnerships between education, health and social care.

The graduated response is designed to support settings with tiered additional funding for children with additional needs, offering targeted support. The percentage of children claiming this additional support is shown below. Only funded children are considered so the number of 2 year olds is 1,245 while the number of 3&4 year olds is 10,000, a much larger cohort. While there have been slight changes from last year, no trends are yet seen and the rates continue to be monitored, particularly to assess impact from the plans drawn up to support the child, and any changes to the graduated response level.

SEND status - 2 year olds	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
1.1 No special educational need & GR1	92.2%	91.7%
1.3 Graduated Response 2 (GR2)	3.9%	3.7%
1.4 Graduated Response 3 (GR3)	1.5%	1.2%
1.5 Graduated Response 4 (GR4)	2.3%	2.7%
1.6 Exceptional Early Years Funding / EHCP	0.2%	0.6%

SEND support - 3&4 year olds	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
1.1 No special educational needs & GR1	89.9%	89.9%
1.3 Graduated Response 2 (GR2)	5.1%	5.0%
1.4 Graduated Response 3 (GR3)	1.8%	1.9%
1.5 Graduated Response 4 (GR4)	2.6%	2.6%
1.6 Exceptional Early Years Funding / EHCP	0.6%	0.7%

Specialist early years language units have been commissioned in each district. Two are being delivered by NHS, one by the nursery assessment unit at Batchley first school and another by ICAN at Cranham Primary School. This targeted intervention, provides children with specialist provision for typically 6 hours per week to support their speech, language and communication needs.

Five nursery assessment units across the County support in assessing the correct level of provision required by a child for when they start school. Four of these are attached to special schools (Chadsgrove, Fort Royal, Vale of Evesham and Wyre Forest) and a further unit is attached to a first school in Redditch (Batchley). In January 2019, 104 children were being supported in this type of provision with some going on to a special school and some moving into mainstream schools with specific support.

Families from minority backgrounds

The ethnic breakdown of those families using their entitlement for 15 hours funding for 3 and 4-year olds (universal offer) is as follows.

White British/Welsh/English/Cornish	78.1%
Eastern European	1.4%
European	1.3%
Pakistani	1.2%
54 other ethnic groups, each less than 1%	8.0%
Information not obtained	10.0%

Source: synergy June 2019

Following on from the Worcestershire Parent/Carer Childcare Survey 2018, it was considered that some families from minority ethnic background might not be aware of their entitlement and so it formed a separate action regarding supporting these families.

Affordability

30% of children using funded universal hours (15hrs for 3 and 4-year olds) also access paid hours. This is down from 33% in Summer 2018. An annual survey⁴ of costs for these fee-paid hours, shows that the cost in England, of an additional 20 hours, for this age child, is £96 per week, a rise of 2% higher than 2018.

In the Worcestershire Parent/Carer Childcare Survey 2018, families accessing funded places said that additional costs on top of funded hours were the biggest challenge to accessing their entitlement, with just over a third saying it was a barrier. However, government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free childcare and is not intended to cover the

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https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Resource%20Library/Childcare%20Survey%202019_Coram%20Family%20and%20Childcare.pdf

costs of meals, other consumable or additional services. For many providers, these additional costs are crucial to delivering sustainable high quality flexible childcare, but they should not restrict a family's ability to take up their child's free place. Providers must therefore be clear and transparent at the point of accepting a place of the additional costs, and that these are additional costs must be voluntary.

Parents returning to work may also incur costs for childcare commitments for younger children and wrap around care for school age children. Availability of these providers is shown at the start of this section and all schools are encouraged to offer breakfast and after-school clubs.

Finding information and accessing funded hours

The Family Information Service (FIS) is commissioned by the County from 3 partners, Action for Children, Barnardo's, and Bromsgrove and Redditch District Council. This service supports families with access to the early education childcare offer.

Activity during the year is shown below:

Enquiry Type	Summer 2019
2 Year Old Funding	35.1%
Universal Hours	2.9%
30 Hours	5.7%
Education Services	2.0%
Barriers/negative Comments	0.2%
Childcare Choices	9.1%
Hub	0.1%
Miscellaneous	19.1%
Other Childcare	2.8%
Setting Contact	8.5%
System support & eligibility checking	4.9%
Work & Benefits	0.4%
Your Life Your Choice	8.8%
Named Enquiries	0.3%
Anonymous Enquiries	0.2%

Out of nearly 6,000 parent contacts, 35% were in connection with 2-year-old funded places.

Work will continue to engage with families of 2-year-olds that are eligible for funded places as well as support families with older pre-school children to access the free offer. Recent mailings to GPs, DWP job coaches, and housing association should widen their reach. The web-site WorcestershireCountyCouncil/familyinformationservice has received 488 hits in Summer 21019 (1 April 2019 to 31 August 2019) and the /freechildcare site has received 24,070 hits for the same period.

Sufficiency of Early Years Childcare at District and Ward level

From the Worcestershire Parents/Carers Childcare Survey 2018, location was rated as the most important factor when looking for childcare. For the majority of families, this meant childcare that was located near to where they live. For this reason, we have chosen to assess the availability of childcare at ward level.

2-year-old Funded Hours - Summer 2019	County	Broms	Malvern	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	W. Forest
Children in a funded place	1,140	175	123	189	215	185	260
Average % eligibility	31%	23%	29%	36%	35%	26%	38%
Average % engagement	69%	65%	75%	66%	67%	73%	70%

3 and 4-year-old Universal Hours - Summer 2019	County	Broms	Malvern	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	W. Forest
Children in a funded place	10,458	1,890	1,206	1,535	1,772	2,252	1,803
Average % engagement – 3 yr olds	93%	91%	96%	88%	88%	102%	94%
Average % take-up – 3-year olds	103%	122%	123%	85%	86%	116%	100%

3 and 4-year-old Extended Hours - Summer 2019	County	Broms	Malvern	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	W. Forest
Children in a funded place	5,290	1,077	659	749	880	1,162	763
Average % eligibility	68%	74%	68%	65%	66%	70%	65%
Average % engagement	69%	62%	71%	72%	67%	72%	70%

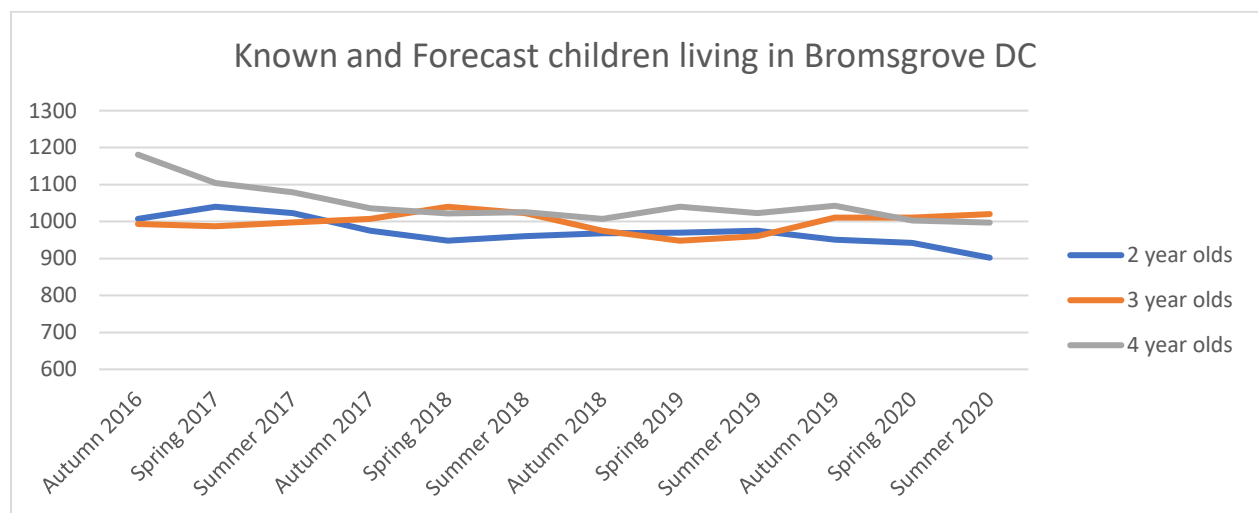
The forecast model assumes that 15 hours is considered a funded place for early education and that these hours can be used by either 2,3 or 4-year-olds. On this basis, children claiming 30-hours of funded childcare are therefore using 2 places.

The available hours are calculated by opening times multiplied by the maximum number of children that can be cared for at any one time. These hours are then recalculated to give the number of places, and this is considered against the number of known children living in the same ward for the next 12 months (3 terms) to give a level of sufficiency which has been RAG rated.

Bromsgrove

The district of Bromsgrove lies in the North-East of the county and is comprised primarily of the town of Bromsgrove and surrounding villages. The district has strong transport links both to Worcester City and Birmingham, which borders the district to the North.

The area has 98,700 residents (NOMIS 2018) within the 84 square miles. Of these around 2,979 are age between 2 and 4 years old.



Average annual income of families living in Bromsgrove is one of the highest in the County, resulting in the lowest average percentage of eligibility for 2-year-old funded entitlement at 23% (Summer 2019) compared to the County Level of 31%. Engagement is also one of the lowest in the County at 65%. However, it is likely that a number of families choose to access their funded entitlement in providers outside of Worcestershire.

Bromsgrove has the highest estimated percentage eligible for 30-hours at 74% of families, and also draws in a number of families from outside of the area, demonstrated with a take-up rate of 122% of known children living in the district.

Bromsgrove Wards

A map for Bromsgrove showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix.

Ward Name	Aut	Spr	Sum
Alvechurch South			
Alvechurch Village			
Aston Fields			
Avoncroft			
Barnt Green & Hopwood			
Belbroughton & Romsley			
Bromsgrove Central			
Catshill North			
Catshill South			
Charford			
Cofton			
Drakes Cross			
Hagley East			
Hagley West			
Hill Top			
Hollywood			
Lickey Hills			
Lowes Hill			
Marlbrook			
Norton			
Perryfields			
Rock Hill			
Rubery North			
Rubery South			
Sanders Park			
Sidemoor			
Slideslow			
Tardebigge			
Wythall East			
Wythall West			

Across the district, there should be sufficient places for eligible children to claim their funded place, but some families may need to look in neighbouring wards. As parents travel to work in Birmingham, some children may find places in other authority areas.

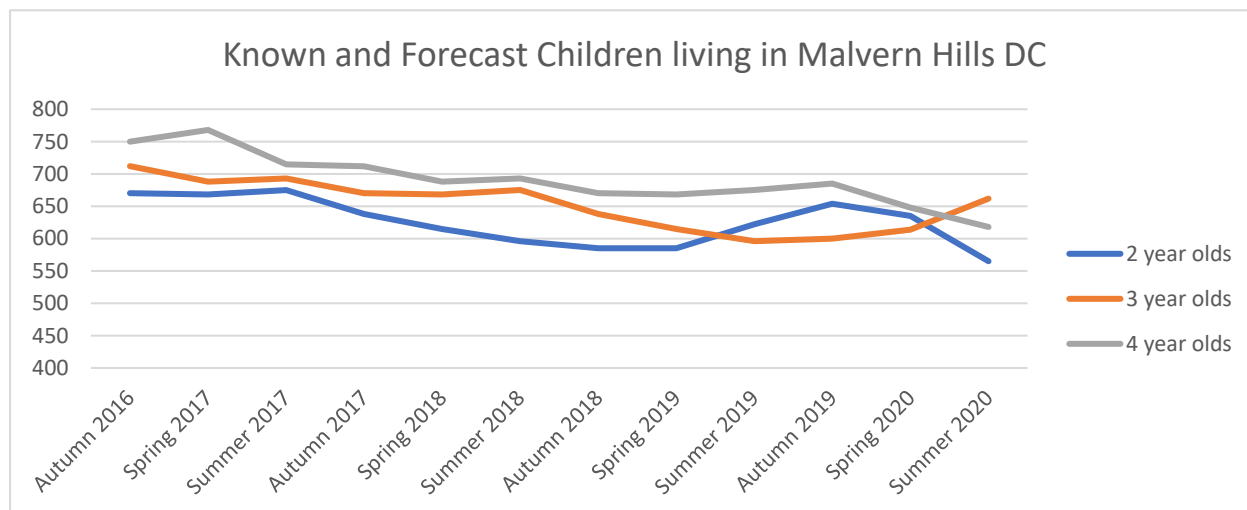
Pressure on places will grow over the year as children as more children will turn 3 and become eligible for a funded place. Those aged 4 only move onto school in September.

Last year, only 2 wards were rated red, while 7 were rated amber. This has increased to 5 wards rated red, and 10 wards rated amber which could indicate increasing pressure on places. These red-rated areas will be the focus of continuing work to increase the supply of places.

Malvern Hills

The district council of Malvern Hills covers the entirety of the West side of Worcestershire. The area has an estimated 78,100 residents (NOMIS 2018) and covers a total of 223 square miles of predominantly rural areas, but does encompass the towns of Malvern, Upton-upon-Severn, and Tenbury Wells. The majority of the district is made up of small rural villages and rural land, and borders Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire.

There has been approximately 1,842 two, three, and four year olds living in the district making it the smallest early years population in Worcestershire by some distance, but one of the largest geographically. Over the last several years, the number of pre-school children has decreased, and this trend is anticipated to continue over the next year. A number of large new housing developments are anticipated in and around the town of Malvern over the next 5-10 years which will likely renew the young population in the district.



The eligibility for 2-year-old funded entitlement is 29%, and engagement is 75%, one of the highest in the County.

Engagement in 3-and 4-year olds funding was slightly above the County average at 96% (3% higher) and for the extended, 30 hours offer at 71% (2% higher).

Malvern Wards

A map for Malvern showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix.

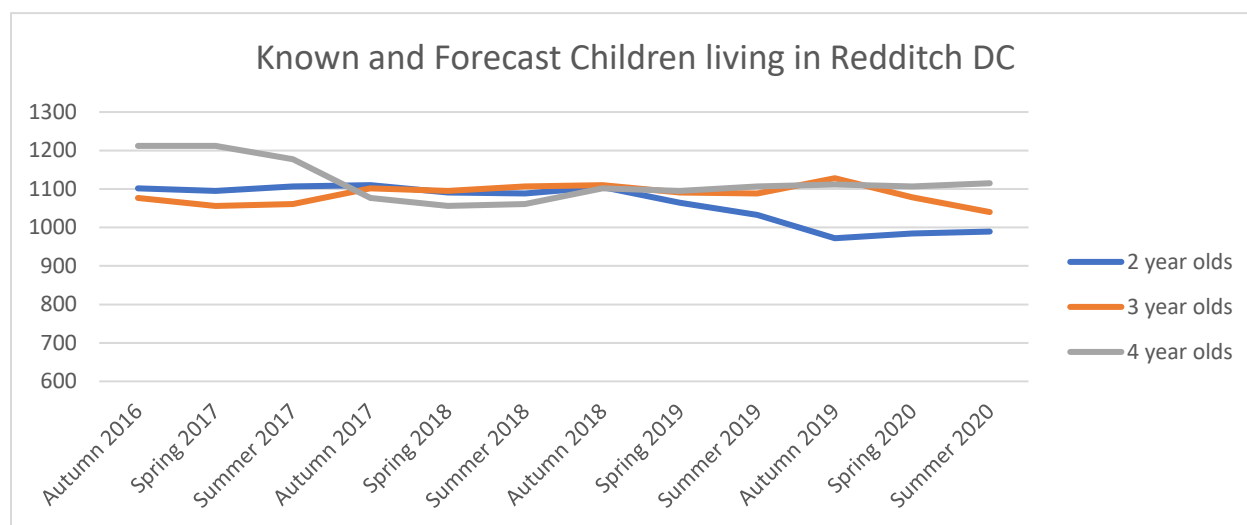
Ward Name	Aut	Spr	Sum
Alfrick and Leigh			
Baldwin			
Broadheath			
Chase			
Dyson Perrins			
Hallow			
Kempsey			
Lindridge			
Link			
Longdon			
Martley			
Morton			
Pickersleigh			
Powick			
Priory			
Ripple			
Teme Valley			
Tenbury			
Upton and Hanley			
Wells			
West - Malvern Hills			
Woodbury			

There are 8 wards of most concern in Summer 2020.

These form any area in the West of the district and will be carefully monitored over the next three terms.

Redditch

The district council of Redditch predominantly includes the urban town of Redditch and immediate surrounding area. The area encompasses approximately 85,000 residents (2018 NOMIS) over an area of just 30 square miles. There are currently 3,123 known two, three, and four year olds living in the district, continuing the decreased numbers, a trend that is anticipated to continue over the next year. A large housing development to the West of the town is anticipated over the next 5-10 years which will renew the population of pre-school age children in the area.



The percentage eligibility for 2-year-old funded entitlement for Summer 2019 was 36%, higher than the average for the County of 31% indicating lower household incomes. Engagement is 3% lower than the County average of 69%, at 66%.

Engagement of 3-and 4-year olds with the universal offer, and the extended offer was 88% and 72% respectively.

Redditch Wards

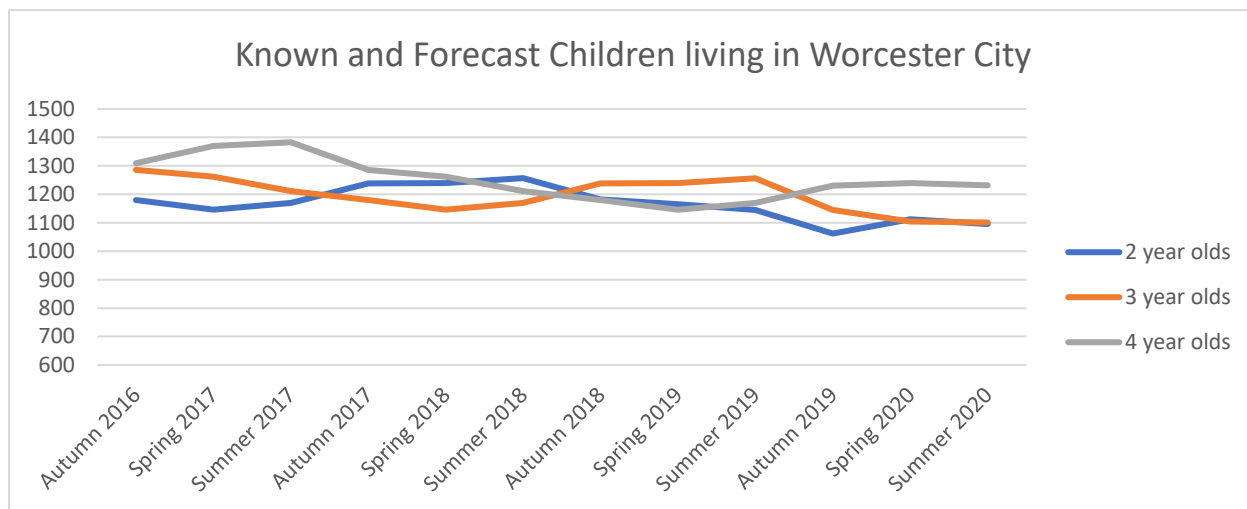
A map for Redditch showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix.

Ward Name	Aut	Spr	Sum
Abbey			
Astwood Bank and Feckenham			
Batchley & Brockhill			
Central			
Church Hill			
Crabbs Cross			
Greenlands			
Headless Cross and Oakenshaw			
Lodge Park			
Matchborough			
West - Redditch			
Winyates			

There are the same number of wards of concern as last year and no settings are reporting waiting lists.

Worcester City

Worcester City is the predominant urban area of Worcestershire, located in the centre of the county, bordered by Wychavon and Malvern Hills. The City is by far the most densely populated in Worcestershire with approximately 101,900 residents living within 13 square miles (2018 NOMIS). There are 3,493 two, three, and four year olds were living in the area, which makes it the largest early years market in Worcestershire. Over the last several years, the number of pre-school children has been decreasing, this trend is anticipated to continue over the next year, however a number of large housing developments to the South and West of the city boundaries are anticipated over the next 5-10 years which will renew the number of families seeking early years and mainstream education in the area.



The percentage eligibility for 2-year-old funded entitlement is 35% and engagement is 67% (31% and 69% respectively for the County), reflecting the higher deprivation in the area than other districts of the County.

The universal offer engagement is 88% of known children, and take-up within district of those living in the same district is 86%.

Worcester Wards

A map for Worcester showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix.

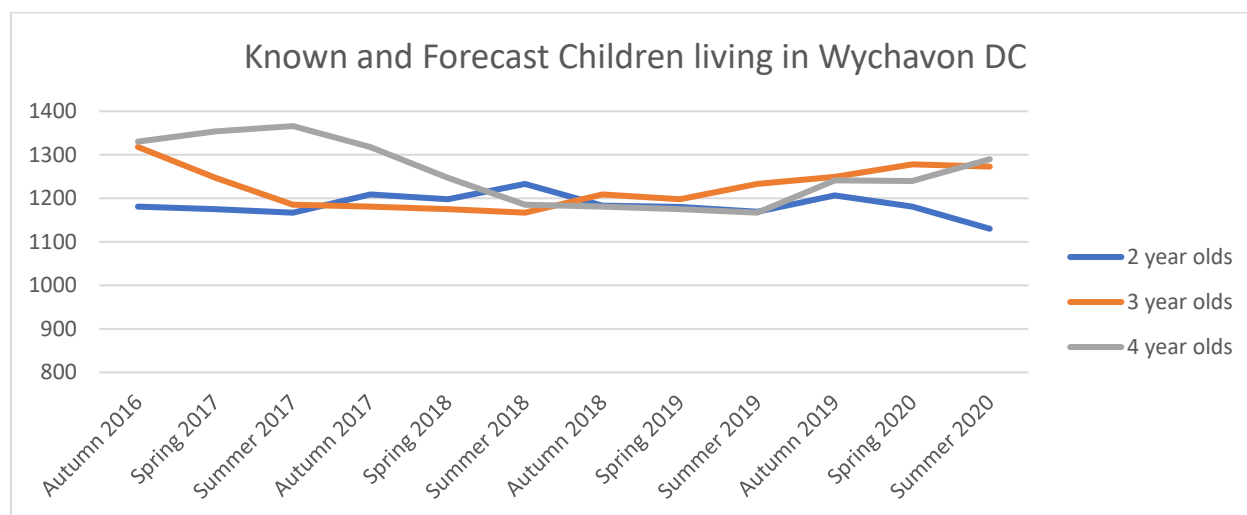
Ward Name	Aut	Spr	Sum
Arboretum			
Battenhall			
Bedwardine			
Cathedral			
Claines			
Gorse Hill			
Nunnery			
Rainbow Hill			
St Clement			
St John			
St Peter's Parish			
St Stephen			
Warndon			
Warndon Parish North			
Warndon Parish South			

The district of Worcester is showing some areas where more children live than there are 15-hour places.

A school in Warndon has recently been successful in bidding for DfE funding under the School Nursery Capital Fund and will expand its provision by a potential 48 places.

Wychavon

The district of Wychavon spans an area of 256 square miles on the east side of Worcestershire with an estimated population of 127,300 (2018 NOMIS). The district is made up predominantly of the urban areas of Droitwich, Evesham, and Pershore and the surrounding villages and rural areas, and is bordered by the counties of Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. Although the district is the largest geographical district of Worcestershire, with the highest number of residents, it only has the second largest early years population of approximately 3,323 two, three, and four year olds.



The percentage eligibility for 2-year-old funded entitlement in Wychavon is 26% with engagement at 73% being above the rate in the County of 69%.

The level of engagement in 3-and 4-year-old funded places is 102% and take-up 116%, as a result of net inward migration to the district. Childcare providers do not operate catchment areas and therefore children can come from other districts of the local authority, and other local authority areas too, such as Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire.

Wychavon wards

A map for Wychavon showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix

Ward	Aut	Spr	Sum
Badsey			
Bengeworth			
Bowbrook			
Bredon			
Bretforton and Offenham			
Broadway and Wickhamford			
Dodderhill			
Drakes Broughton			
Droitwich Central			
Droitwich East			
Droitwich South East			
Droitwich South West			
Droitwich West			
Eckington			
Elmley Castle and Somerville			
Evesham North			
Evesham South			
Fladbury			
Great Hampton			
Hartlebury			
Harvington and Norton			
Honeybourne and Pebworth			
Inkberrow			
Little Hampton			
Lovett and North Claines			
Norton and Whittington			
Ombersley			
Pershore			
Pinvin			
South Bredon Hill			
The Littletons			
Upton Snodsbury			

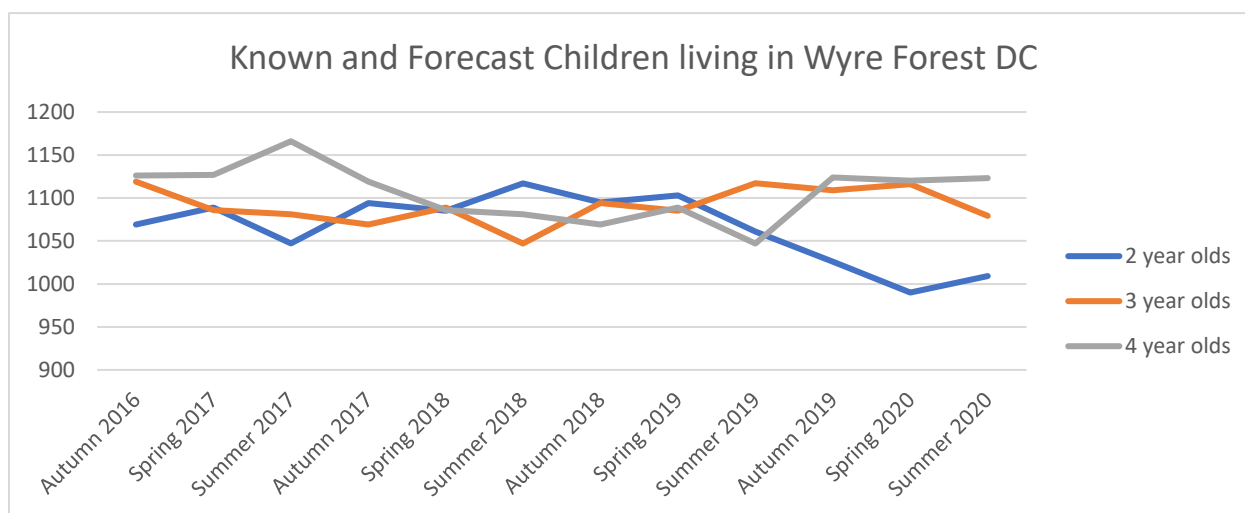
There are a number of wards in Wychavon that show more known children than 15-hour places. However, Wychavon shares a border with Warwickshire, and as our data shows children with a Warwickshire postcode attending Worcestershire settings, it is assumed that some eligible children will claim a funding place in another authority.

This district, covering the towns of Evesham, Pershore and Droitwich as well as rural areas shows the most pressure for places following the rise in number of 3 and 4-year-olds since the Autumn term of 2018.

A school in The Littletons has recently been successful in bidding for DfE funding under the School Nursery Capital Fund and will expand its provision by a potential 20 places.

Wyre Forest

The district of Wyre Forest spans an area of 75 square miles in the North of Worcestershire and is made up predominantly of the urban area of Kidderminster and surrounding areas, with an estimated population of 101,100 (2018 NOMIS). The area is bordered by the district councils of Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Bromsgrove, and by the Counties of Staffordshire and Shropshire. There are currently 3,194 two, three, and four year olds living in the district (Known children September 2018). Over the last several years, the number of pre-school children has decreased slightly; however, the total number is anticipated to remain fairly stable over the following year.



The percentage entitlement to funded 2-year-old place is 38%, the highest in the County and engagement is 70%.

The level of engagement with 3-&4-year-olds is 94%, with take-up at 100%. Engagement in the extended 30 hour offer is at 70% of the children calculated to be eligible.

Wyre Forest Wards

A map for Wyre Forest showing the wards, is available in a separate appendix.

Ward Name	Aut	Spr	Sum
Aggborough & Spennells			
Areley Kings & Riverside			
Bewdley & Rock			
Blakebrook & Habberley South			
Broadwaters			
Foley Park & Hoobrook			
Franchise & Habberley North			
Lickhill			
Mitton			
Offmore & Comberton			
Wribbenhall & Arley			
Wyre Forest Rural			

There are 5 of 12 wards in this district, that are forecast to need children to take funded places outside of the ward in which they live.

Two schools in Broadwaters have recently been successful in bidding for DfE funding under the School Nursery Capital Fund and will expand the total provision by a potential 33 places for the area.

Conclusion

Over the last 12 months Worcestershire County Council, in conjunction with partners, has taken a number of strides towards delivering the sufficiency duties and ensuring families can access good quality and suitable funded childcare, meeting the needs of families across the county while still ensuring that the market remains a flexible and inviting prospect for new childcare providers.

This work includes supporting schools to apply for capital grants from the DfE. Five Worcestershire schools successfully bid for £1.5 million from the school nurseries capital fund (SNCF). This will deliver a further 168 nursery places in disadvantaged areas.

A number of new childminders have been recruited through designated training pathways. This training offers the opportunity to local people to deliver high quality childcare from home. During the last three terms, commissioned partners delivered 3 pathways at various locations in the County and trained 23 people.

Also, business support is offered to providers to becoming funded, signing the formal provider agreement and receiving payments from the local authority, as well as quality support to ensure that the number of providers rated as good or outstanding remains high.

In the last year, free childcare entitlement for 2,3 and 4 year olds has been promoted to parents via the County Summer Roadshows, advice and information to Libraries, GPs, Health Visitor clinics, DWP job coaches, and adult learning tutors along with housing associations. A campaign is being planned for social media to increase the reach still further. Links with the Family Information Services within the County are now stronger, and they supported the Early Years EXPO 2019. The information on the funded early education offer will be promoted at every opportunity both within Worcestershire County Council, but also with its partners and the agencies working with families. It is considered important that families receive early notice of their entitlement and can review their preference in terms of location and consider the various types of early years setting in order that they can plan their return to work.

Currently the data on wraparound care, holiday clubs and childcare at schools to extend the school day, is held for funded settings and we need to extend this to cover all provision in the County. This will provide useful information to support parents to remain in work.

In Worcestershire, families can access high quality funded early education and childcare places in their districts. However, ensuring the flexibility to match families' needs for childcare due to working times, and the additional care for younger children can still cause barriers for some families to return to work. The Local Authority will continue to explore all opportunities to increase places within the childcare market ensuring that the provision is local, flexible, affordable and inclusive.