

Nursery places 30hrs Free entitlement for working parents

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Children's select committee on the work being taken forward to meet the requirement to make available **sufficient childcare in the local area**¹.

Background

2. As a local authority, we are required to secure sufficient childcare places.² Local authorities have been required by the new 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). This is also relevant for children who are entitled to Two-Year-Old Funding, Three and Four-Year-Old Funding (universal entitlement and the extended 30 hours entitlement).
3. The Children's Select committee received a report in January 2017 identifying this initial legislation and the main considerations and response by Wiltshire Council at that time.
4. The work has continued over the last year and the commissioning team have used three layers of information to create commissioning priorities and actions to create sufficient childcare across Wiltshire:
 - a. Population data has been the initial information which has enabled us to understand how many additional childcare places may be needed across Wiltshire.
 - b. This information has then been overlaid with information regarding the current percentage take up of places in each locality, town or village.
 - c. Then local knowledge has enabled us to appreciate how a local community operates. E.g. The places might not be the right sort of places, they may not offer sufficient hours, places may be in a village which is not accessible to people from the town or parents from the villages and the wider community may put extra demand on a town as this is where jobs and transport links are. (The data is shown in the appendix).
5. This information and data plays an important role in the success of funding applications to the Department for Education to support sufficiency and the sector. Last year the Local Authority was

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596460/early_education_and_childcare_statutory_guidance_2017.pdf

² Early Education & Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (March 2017)

successful with its application in securing additional Early Years capital fund of £1.4 million pounds, to support areas in Wiltshire in most need for additional Early Years provision. Further funding was accessed to provide Early Years provision via the S106 funding from housing developers. A further submission to the Delivery Support Fund for £75000 was made for strengthening the Early Years sector in the delivery of the 30 hours Free Entitlement.

6. All the above required data as evidence as the funding is targeted at our areas of most need.
7. The funding received has contributed to sufficient capacity for Early Years places for children to access both 15 and 30 hours Free Entitlement in most areas across the county.
8. However, there is a possibility that we may not have sufficient capacity in certain areas like Larkhill and Malmesbury during the Summer term, but we have a number initiatives we are exploring to increase capacity for example, recruiting more childminders and other small-scale projects. The new 72 place nursery in Larkhill, due to open in September 2018 will provide sufficient provision in that area.

Commissioning Considerations

9. We will continue to develop the quality and scope of this provision and work closely with the providers to ensure that we have sufficient high quality provision across the county in the right places.
10. We continue to have a statutory duty to secure information, advice and training to all providers registered on the Ofsted early years register who are judged less than 'good' at their most recent inspection and to any new providers, as well as offer information advice and training to any provider that requests this to ensure the provision meets the statutory requirements of the EYFS¹

Safeguarding Considerations

11. As the Local authority, we are obliged to ensure that there is "effective safeguarding and promotion of welfare of the children for whom the early education is provided"; and "that providers actively promote fundamental British values and not promote views or theories as fact which are contrary to established scientific or historical evidence and explanations". This will be part of the ongoing work with both new and existing providers.

Public Health Implications

12. The provision of sufficient childcare is part of the Local authority's overall commitments to support the health and wellbeing of Wiltshire's communities. No specific issues arise out of this work, apart from acknowledging that access to good childcare is a significant part of supporting children's and families' health and wellbeing.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

13. There are no specific environmental and climate change issues because of developing child care sufficiency.

Commercial considerations

14. Creating and meeting the childcare sufficiency expectations has a direct impact on the capacity of communities to get as many of those parents who are seeking to work to participate in work.

Equalities Impact

15. A significant part of the remit of the childcare sufficiency is to promote equality and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged families, looked after children, children in need and children with special educational needs and disability by removing barriers of access to free places and working with parents to give each child support to fulfil their potential. As a Local authority, we must ensure that we meet their duties

under the Equality Act 2010 and take account of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 0-25 when securing free places.

Risk Management and Financial Implications

16. The risks are in not meeting the requirements. The current situation is that we are on target to provide appropriate levels of provision. However, it is a continuing role to ensure that this level of provision is achieved as well as that the quality of provision for early education and childcare is maintained.
17. Under current legislation the local authority can withdraw free entitlement funding from any provider judged as inadequate by Ofsted, therefore it is important we continue to provide nurseries with support and challenge to ensure high standards are met and that sufficient places are available to meet the demand.¹

Legal Implications

18. It is a legal requirement that we ensure sufficient childcare is available across Wiltshire to all parents who wish to access this provision. We will continue to work with the providers and ensure there is sufficient high quality Early years provision in the county

Conclusions

19. Most of the Community Areas across Wiltshire have sufficient high quality nursery provision that is keeping pace with demand and plans are under way to increase capacity in other areas where demand exceeds supply.
20. Wiltshire Early years provision is 4% above the national average for outstanding providers of good quality nursery provision, whereby, 93% of providers have an Ofsted quality judgement of good or better at their latest inspection. We will continue to support all new and existing provision and use the new funding to support quality and on-going developments.

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Appendix one – Child care sufficiency projections

Birth Rate Analysis September 2017										
	Ages as September 2017									
	0	1	2	<i>(projections for 3yr old to be funded at 1 Jan)</i>	3		Total of 3&4		No of EY places 3-5	Variance
Amesbury	436	512	499	329.34	486		815.3	Amesbury	742	-73.34
Bradford on Avon	106	134	118	77.88	125		202.9	Bradford on Avon	293.5	90.62
Calne	215	251	290	191.4	265		456.4	Calne	382	-74.4
Chippenham	492	538	496	327.36	510		837.4	Chippenham	865.5	28.14
Corsham	201	220	239	157.74	255		412.7	Corsham	416	3.26
Devizes	285	294	279	184.14	307		491.1	Devizes	497.5	6.36
Southern Wiltshire	219	237	222	146.52	286		432.5	Downton	354.5	-78.02
Malmesbury	163	203	194	128.04	186		314	Malmesbury	378.5	64.46
Marlborough	143	162	172	113.52	162		275.5	Marlborough	430.5	154.98
Melksham	281	294	297	196.02	334		530	Melksham	492.5	-37.52
Pewsey	74	84	89	58.74	94		152.7	Pewsey	120.5	-32.24
Royal Wootton Bassett	370	390	376	248.16	397		645.2	Royal Wootton Bassett	628.5	-16.66
Salisbury	432	468	460	303.6	471		774.6	Salisbury	785.5	10.9
Tidworth	309	349	314	207.24	323		530.2	Tidworth	399	-131.24
Trowbridge	589	625	689	454.74	709		1164	Trowbridge	929	-234.74
Warminster	195	232	235	155.1	240		395.1	Warminster	437	41.9
Westbury	206	221	239	157.74	249		406.7	Westbury	276.5	-130.24
South West	182	204	199	131.34	205		336.3	See below	381	44.66
Totals	4898	5418	5407		5604		9173	Grand	8809.5	-363.12

