

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Date: **12 June 2023**
Time: **4.00pm**
Venue: **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ**
Members: **Councillors:** Heliwell (Joint Chair), Taylor (Joint Chair), Hamilton (Deputy Chair), Shanks (Opposition Spokesperson), Allen, Daniel, Goddard, Mistry, Goldsmith and Hogan

Co-optees:

Lesley Hurst (Diocesan Assistant Director of Education) and Simon Parr (Catholic Diocese)

Non-Voting Co-optees:

Adam Muirhead (Community Works Rep) and Becky Robinson (PaCC)

Contact: **Emma Thomson**
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Date of Publication - Date Not Specified

AGENDA

Part One

Page

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) **Declaration of Substitutes:** Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) **Declarations of Interest:**

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator, preferably before the meeting.

(c) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note:

Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

2 MINUTES

9 - 18

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2023.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4 CALL OVER

- (a) Items 8 – 12 will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions received by due date of 10 working days ahead of the meeting (26th May 2023);
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 6 June 2023;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 6 June 2023.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public and referred from the last full council meeting:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions;
- (b) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations;
- (c) **Petitions for debate:** to receive any petitions that were debated at the full council meeting.

7 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions notified by the due date of 26th May 2023;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion submitted directly to the Committee.

8 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

19 - 24

Report of the Executive Director Strategy, Governance and People.

Contact Officer: Emma Thomson

Ward Affected: All Wards

9 PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF HERTFORD INFANT AND HERTFORD JUNIOR SCHOOLS

25 - 32

Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.

Contact Officer: Richard Barker

Tel: 01273 290732

Ward Affected: All Wards

- 10 REVIEW OF FOSTERING ALLOWANCES** **33 - 44**
Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.
Contact Officer: Karen Devine Tel: 01273 295444
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 11 SCHOOL MEALS CONTRACT** **45 - 56**
Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.
Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 12 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT** **57 - 144**
Report of the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.
Contact Officer: Vicky Jenkins Tel: 01273 296110
Ward Affected: All Wards
- 13 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**
To consider items to be submitted to the 20 July 2023 Council meeting for information.

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Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Emma Thomson, (01273 291077, email emma.thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Brighton & Hove City Council
Children, Young People & Skills Committee

4.00pm 6 March 2023

Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

Minutes

Present: Councillor Allbrooke (Chair) John (Deputy Chair), O'Quinn (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Hamilton, Lloyd, McNair, Meadows and Nield

Part One

47 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

47.1 Cllr Sankey substituted for Cllr Grimshaw.

b) Declarations of Interest

47.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

47.3 There were no Part Two Items and so the press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

48 MINUTES

48.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

49 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

49.1 The chair gave the following communication:

I'd first like to welcome Leon who is my mentee from the mentoring scheme for councillors as part of the Power of Youth Charter.

As this is the last Committee before the local elections, I wanted to use my chair's communications today to reflect on some of the things I'm most proud of in the nearly three years that I've been chair. Although it started slightly rocky with the closure of the Friends Centre within my first week, I believe that adult education in this city has a bright

future through the Adult Education Hub. This truly excellent council-run service is supporting adults to learn, including refugees, in our city. Our Youth Council is now bigger than it was when I first became chair and full of excellent young people and our Care Leavers Forum is taking a leading role in our Corporate Parenting Board. We launched our Fairer Brighton & Hove framework, which links together work tackling those who face barriers. The Youth Employment Hub is excellent, and I really hope the Department for Work and Pensions continue funding this beyond the end of the year.

In April, some of our children's centres are transitioning to family hubs which means they will support children and young people up to the age of 19 rather than 5. Our Youth Offending Service received an Outstanding inspection in all twelve categories, which is incredibly rare. Our Anti-Racist Education Strategy and the recruitment of the country's first ever Anti-Racist Lead Practitioner in social work. Our Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit was reviewed, and version 4 continues to make the lives of young trans people better. We fought academisation at Moulsecoomb, even though unsuccessfully and we will fight it at West Blatchington. We lobbied the Government, and we even caused our very own Boris Johnson to u-turn over school closures in January 2021. Our City, Our World has seen so much work going on in schools on environmental education which you will hear more about later on today. We got home to school transport back on track. We became the first council to sign up to the Power of Youth Charter.

I have had the pleasure as chair of this Committee of working with some fantastic people both inside and outside the council, so I wanted to give my thanks to some of those I've worked with the closest in my time as chair. Firstly, Alison Michalska and Richard Tyndall from SESLIP, who have always been great advisors and supporters when I needed someone who could tell me whether I'm on the right track. Chris Robson, our independent scrutineer. Brendan, Brian, and Alan in Comms as well as Sarah, our Local Democracy Reporter.

Everyone I've met with from the third sector who have helped guide us – Katie and Ryan from Allsorts, Jo and everyone at H&KP, Mike and everyone at BYC, Sally and her predecessor Rachel at AMAZE, Laura and her team at Oasis, the team at TDC, Vanessa and the team at BMEYPP and PaCC.

All of our schools heads, governors, and wider community – thank you for being so engaged with what we have done. And a huge thank you to the Educators of Colour Collective for being so brilliant. I also want to thank those who've been on this committee – Adam, our parent governor reps, our youth council reps, our colleagues from the voluntary aided sector and of course PaCC.

And within the council: Emma, Lisa and Clare who have supported this Committee from Democratic Services. Chris and James in the background making the webcast work. Natasha who is brilliant both during and outside of this Committee as our legal advisor. All of the many Debbies – Debbie Corbridge, Debbie Greensmith and Debbie Garrett. Carolyn Bristow – who is always behind the most excellent things. Richard, Saul, and Gillian for all their work on pupil admissions. Tracie and John who support our fantastic youth council. Carla, Amir, and the team at both the Adult Education Hub and Youth Employment Hubs. Jo and the newly created Family Hubs team. Katie and Mita who support young people in environmental education. Mark, Ashley, and the standards & achievements team. Sarah and EMAS. Camille and others in our PSHE and equalities

team, including Sam who of course no longer works for BHCC. Sue Franklin and her team of education psychologists. Mia and the Home to School Transport Team. Tom, Gerry (sorry), Karen, Kirsty, Tania, Millie and every single one of our pod managers and social workers. Justin, our Head of Safeguarding, and his team. The two Clare's who support foster panel, as well as our chair, Elaine Dibben. Lastly - Anna, Georgina, and Jo – and of course, I would never not mention the brilliant Deb Austin who I have enjoyed working alongside immensely. We are lucky to have such a brilliant leadership team in Families, Children and Learning.

This will be the last committee for some colleagues who are standing down at the next set of elections or may not get re-elected or sit on this Committee again. I wanted to therefore end by recognising that Councillor Vanessa Brown is standing down at this set of local elections after an incredible 28 years as a councillor for this city. Vanessa has in her time been focused on children & young people, including as Cabinet member for four years. She can count in her many achievements, her relentless focus on making the lives of young people in our city better. Although we may not always agree, I have always respected Vanessa for her knowledge, experience, and willingness to work together across political divides. I hope Committee will join me in thanking Vanessa for everything she has done.

50 CALL OVER

- 50.1 The chair proceeded without call over since there was only one presentation and three reports on the agenda.

51 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

a) Petitions

- 51.1 Ms H Berendt presented the petition 'Take Action to Protect Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in Brighton & Hove'.
- 51.2 The chair provided the following response:

Thank you for your petition. I note that the existence of Home Office run hotels in our city are a terrible way to treat vulnerable refugees and that it is deeply worrying that young people have gone missing. I want to take some time to address this because it's so important.

Firstly, I want to highlight that although as a local authority we have a responsibility to be involved when children go missing, it is Sussex Police who have a responsibility to find missing children, as is the case when any child goes missing.

Contrary to the narrative that some councillors have repeatedly attempted to paint, this council has continued to work to close the hotels for asylum seekers, including the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) hotel and those operating for children and families. The UASC hotel is currently not operating.

To understand responsibility in this crucial matter we need to understand the recent history of it. As a local authority we do not run the hotel; it is the Home Office who

opened it, the Home Office under contract with the hotel the Home Office that provides the staffing and we cannot close it but despite this we have continued to challenge its operation.

We received less than 24 hours' notice that the hotel was opening back in July 2021, being advised at the time that it was "temporary". It followed Kent County Council advising they could no longer provide interim care for the sheer numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, or "UASCs", arriving in this country, primarily through Dover.

A week before the hotel had been opened, greens sounded the alarm at a meeting of Full Council where we pointed to our concerns regarding care for UASC and how many other councils did not meet their moral obligations to provide care for UASC through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

The NTS works like this, when an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child arrives, if the place they arrive at has above 0.1% of their child population as UASCs in care, they can transfer the young people to another local authority's care. UASC may also arrive in an area as a "spontaneous arrival" – both of these are ways that Brighton & Hove City Council takes UASC into care, where we have consistently remained above that quota.

Councils receive some funding from government for providing this care, but the reality is it is not enough. We spend at least £500,000 a year extra in Brighton & Hove above the funding we receive. We do this because it's the right thing to do but it is a struggle. The council continues to have huge financial challenges, as evidenced by our recent budget. In addition, we have big struggles in finding foster parents, supported living arrangements or residential care places for all children in care. It is this reason why many councils will look the other way.

In response to Kent, the Government upped the rate local councils would receive for taking young people through the NTS - but this wasn't enough – which led to the hotels being opened a few weeks later. These hotels are supposed to be a temporary stay for a matter of days until another local council takes them into care, although the average length of stay is 18.5 days. The majority of children who go missing, go missing within the first 3 and over 1600 young people have stayed in the two UASC hotels that operated in Brighton & Hove.

As soon as the hotel opened, we were requesting meetings with the Home Office. We held one meeting within 24 hours, which was attended by the Department for Education (DfE). In this, as councillors we challenged the DfE on safeguarding and on the circumstances behind its opening but the Home Office did not even show up. We were repeatedly advised by the Home Office that this hotel was temporary, but in October 2021 they then opened a second hotel in the city. At the time they once again "apologised as they didn't like to work this way" but cited extreme pressure that they were under in finding places to care for UASC.

In November 2021, the Government made their next policy attempt to close the hotels by making the NTS. This meant councils were forced to take UASC if they weren't at the, at the time at their 0.07% quota. And this did in part work – the second hotel was closed in Brighton & Hove in January 2022 and the first had a temporary closure as I

announced in my chair's communications last January. However, sadly it re-opened again.

Throughout this period, both councillors and officers highlighted our concerns about the hotels to the Home Office and so did local MPs. I truly believe that although this challenge did not lead to the closure of the hotels, it has at least, and indeed at most, led to them operating better. When the hotels first opened there were no qualified social workers on site, young people weren't being registered with the NHS, the local authority was given no details on the young people arriving, no arrangements were in place should children go missing and the thriving community and voluntary sector in this city were being shut out. We pushed for all of these things to happen, and our Head of Safeguarding in particular has been consistent in reviewing the operations at the hotel and challenging to the Home Office. The Home Office did eventually commission a charity to provide advocacy to the young people in the hotel and allow our community and voluntary sector to support.

We have also sought legal advice on our position throughout to consider whether we could launch action against the Government. I don't think it is appropriate for me to address at this stage here in case it prejudices any action the council may decide to take. I have mentioned the hotel repeatedly in my chair's communications at this committee, mentioning it in almost every meeting since the hotel opened. I was hoping this would lead to further scrutiny of the hotel from opposition councillors, however this did not come until a few months ago when Labour suddenly woke up to the issue. They were clearly not listening to those chair's communications or reading the minutes of this meeting as last week it was claimed it was never highlighted as this meeting when it was.

In late 2022, and in response to persistent media coverage, in particular about Manston as well as the cost of hotel accommodation for all refugees in this company, the Government then introduced their third policy attempt to close the hotels. They upped the quote from 0.1% to 0.17% under the NTS and also bribed councils with £15,000 as long as they took UASC from hotels. They would receive the money immediately, but not have to take the young people until the end of February. This meant that councils took the money but took longer than they usually would to take UASC into care, prolonging the stay of young people there. However, it has now resulted in what I expect to be a temporary closure of the hotel.

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Partnership last week released a scrutiny paper which aimed to review the response of Brighton & Hove City Council, Sussex Police and the NHS in response to children going missing from the hotel. It highlights that, and I quote:

Local safeguarding agencies have responded to the situation with advice, training, consultation and full engagement in safeguarding referrals made on a case-by-case basis.

It further notes:

I [the author] am reassured having spoken to Police, Local Authority and the Home Office that children who go missing from the hotel are dealt with in the same way all children would be.

And further, another quote says:

There is clear evidence of a genuine will to work in partnership to ensure that the UASC placed in the hotel are afforded every opportunity to be safe and cared for. I have been provided with details of the partnership approach to safeguarding generally and specifically around missing episodes. Whilst the issue of children going missing is persistent (to varying degrees depending on the time of year) and needs further consideration, the response is thorough, appropriate and multi-agency. The three main agencies charged with safeguarding children in the city all play an active role and work together well.

The scrutiny paper makes 7 recommendations, the majority of which are targeted at the Home Office, however there are recommendations for us as a council to work multi-agency. I believe this report provides clear reassurance that the council has acted where the Home Office have been absent.

The scrutiny paper makes it clear that there needs to be planning for the summer ahead. We know that the number of small boat crossings will increase as the weather gets warmer and we know that this may put more young people at risk.

In the meantime, the council will continue to play its part but I would urge everyone to put their fire instead on the Government, who are responsible for this situation. It is the government who have created a hostile environment to refugees and who are, as reported in the press today, now proposing to break United Nations conventions towards refugees. It is the Government who have failed to create a better solution caring for UASC. It is the Government who have failed to address the chronic shortages in care placements for young people, meaning that councils will turn the other way.

As a council we want the Government to close the hotels and this is something we have always been clear on. But in the interim, we also want to ensure proper safety and regulation through OFSTED inspections rather than through the Border Agency, and for the legal status of these young people to be properly addressed.

We will always do our bit to care for UASC, through caring for them ourselves where we remain one of the councils who are the highest proportion of those caring for UASC and through challenging the Home Office in every possible avenue. We won't always do it publicly and indeed we haven't throughout this last nineteen months, but we give our commitment to communities that we will do everything we can.

- 51.3 The Committee agreed to note the petition since a report on the matter was called for at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 2 March 2023.

b) Written Questions

- 51.4 There were no written questions.

c) Deputations

- 51.5 There were no deputations.

52 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

52.1 There were no items referred from Council.

53 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

53.1 There were no petitions, written questions, letters, or notices of motion.

54 OUR CITY, OUR WORLD PRESENTATION

54.1 The Head of School Organisation, Environmental Education Officer, Varndean School Head, Shelley Baker, and former headteacher and consultant, Jonathan Cooper, delivered the presentation on the Schools Climate Strategy, 'Our City, Our World'.

54.2 Cllr McNair queried how the curriculum engaged children's critical thinking skills.

54.3 The chair and Cllrs O'Quinn, Lloyd and John congratulated and thanked those involved for the quality of the presentation and their excellent work.

54.4 Cllr John raised several questions regarding how councillors could support the work, teachings about the impact on the Global South and measurement of feedback loops.

55 WEST BLATCHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

55.1 The Head of School Organisation and Head of Education Standards & Achievement introduced the report which provided an update on the consultation being undertaken by the governors of West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School to consider becoming an academy as part of the Pioneer Academy.

55.2 The Chair noted that there was a Green Group amendment and invited Cllr Nield to move the amendment.

55.3 Cllr O'Quinn raised concerns that the amendment covered the areas that would be discussed in a debate and suggested it should be taken at the end.

55.4 Cllr Nield moved the amendment, which was seconded by Cllr John, who reserved her right to speak.

55.5 Both Cllrs Brown and Meadows expressed concerns of scaremongering, intimidation and supposition in the Executive Director's letter to West Blatchington.

55.6 Cllr O'Quinn raised points regarding the consultation, the impact of academisation, complexities of governorship, student achievement and disadvantage.

55.7 Ms Robinson echoed concerns regarding the consultation and ASC facility, particularly given a lack of communication with PaCC and mASCot.

55.8 Cllr Meadows raised points about the consultation timing and if the legal requirements were met, the content of the Executive Director's letter and lack of Council support for governor's.

- 55.9 Cllr Sankey raised questions regarding translation of the consultation and support for consulting non-native speaking parents, school improvement, governors quorum, networks for federation and contacting parents regarding concerns.
- 55.10 Cllr Hamilton raised several points regarding consultation government regulations, federation options and criticism of the treatment of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning.
- 55.11 Cllr John outlined the reasoning for the amendment, highlighted the factuality of the Executive Director's letter, and asked for clarification on what would happen to the building if academisation happened.
- 55.12 The Committee voted on the amendment, which was carried.
- 55.13 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –
- i. Noted the details of the consultation undertaken by West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School and agreed with the response of the Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning outlined in Appendix 1 that it had not offered the opportunity for 'full engagement'.
 - ii. Noted opposition to these plans from unions representing staff at the school - Unison, GMB and NEU.
 - iii. Further noted that there were options West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School should consider, including federation and reviewing the school's partnership arrangements.
 - iv. Agreed that academisation was not the best option for West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School and urged the school to halt any plans in that direction.
 - v. Further agreed to have another report to a future meeting of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee outlining the Council's feedback on the published consultation report and any progress towards academisation.

56 EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES & INVESTMENT 2023/24

- 56.1 The Head of School Organisation and Head of Education Standards introduced the report which outlined the level of available capital resources allocated to support education buildings and recommended a capital programme for 2023/24 in respect of School Condition Allocation (SCA) and Basic Need funding.
- 56.2 Cllr Meadows raised questions regarding the unallocated Basic Need funding from previous years, re-use of mobile accommodation and Section 106 funding.
- 56.3 Cllr O'Quinn had queries regarding the Cedar Centre funding, Homewood College and the Community Infrastructure Levy and requested a table was provided which outlined the expenditure on Homewood works.
- 56.4 Cllr Nield sought more information on Legionella funding.
- 56.5 Cllr Brown requested further information on the progress of the Cedar Centre satellite sites.

56.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed –

- i. That the level of available capital resources totalling £5million for investment relating to education buildings financed from capital grant be noted.
- ii. The allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 1 and 2 and recommended this to Policy & Resources Committee on 16 March 2023 for inclusion within the Council’s Capital Investment Programme 2023/24.
- iii. To recommend to Policy & Resources Committee that they grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Property & Design to procure the capital maintenance and basic need works and entered into contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders in respect of the entire Education Capital Programme.

57 ANNUAL REPORT ON EDUCATION STANDARDS 2022

- 57.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement introduced the report which provided an analysis of the End of Key Stage results for children and young people for the 2021-2022 academic year and outlined some of the implemented and planned interventions to address areas of under-achievement and work happening as a result of the disadvantaged strategy and its impact.
- 57.2 Cllr O’Quinn thanked officers and teachers for their work in an exceptionally challenging period and expressed concerns regarding the attainment gap and impact on the most disadvantaged.
- 57.3 Cllr Meadows raised questions regarding the anticipated duration of interventions and strategies, details of the schools judged to require improvement and as inadequate, the support mechanisms in place and barriers to support.
- 57.4 Cllr Nield had queries regarding Key Stage 1 results and the creation of Communication Friendly settings.
- 57.5 Ms Robinson raised points regarding the comparison of data for SEND and non-SEND children and requested further data for SEND children who haven’t undertaken assessments/ exams.
- 57.6 Cllr Hamilton raised points regarding early years intervention and asked if there were services such as a scheme or maths advisors for those with numeracy issues.
- 57.7 Mr Muirhead highlighted the importance of a system-wide response to educational disadvantage and establishing practical ways to work collaboratively.
- 57.8 Cllr Sankey thanked teachers for continuing to deliver quality teaching to children in a difficult time and asked what systemic interventions the Council could implement to effectively tackle disadvantage.
- 57.9 Cllr John raised points regarding engaging with and supporting Class Divide, funding for non-educational issues, early provision and support for communities.

57.10 Cllr O'Quinn had queries regarding attendance, particularly in special schools.

57.11 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted –

- i. The report and supported the focus across the city on improving outcomes for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- ii. That education of all children and young people had been negatively impacted because of the pandemic and this had impacted on outcomes as it had nationally.

58 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

58.1 No items were referred to the next meeting of Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm

Brighton & Hove City Council

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Agenda Item 8

Subject: Constitutional Matters

Date of meeting: 12 June 2023

Report of: Executive Director Strategy, Governance & People

Contact Officer: Name: Emma Thomson
Tel: 01273 291077
Email: emma.thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To provide information on the Committee's terms of reference and related matters including the appointment of its Urgency Sub-Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted and;

2.2 That the establishment of an Urgency Sub-Committee consisting of the Chair of the Committee and two other Members (nominated in accordance with the scheme for the allocation of seats for committees), to exercise its powers in relation to matters of urgency, on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be approved.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Article 6 of the constitution incorporates a schedule of all the Committees/Sub-Committees established in the new constitution together with a summary of their respective functions.

The Children, Families & Schools Committee– Terms of Reference

3.2 A copy of the terms of reference for the Committee is attached in Appendix A. These should be read in the context of the 'Introduction and General Delegations' included in the Scheme of Delegations to Committees and Sub-Committees at part 4 of the constitution.

Membership

3.3 The membership of the Committee is set at 10 Members of the council and 4 Co-opted Members.

- 3.4 The arrangements for substitute Members to attend meetings of Committees/ Sub-Committees are set out in the Council Procedure Rules 18.14 to 18.25.

Programme Meetings

- 3.5 Ordinary meetings of the Children, Families & Schools Committee are scheduled to take place on the following dates during 2023/24:

12 June 2023
11 September 2023
6 November 2023
8 January 2024
4 March 2024

- 3.6 Meetings of the Committee will normally be held at Hove Town Hall and will start at 4.00pm.

Urgency Sub-Committee

- 3.7 The Constitution states that each Committee of the Council except the Audit & Standards Committee may appoint an Urgency Sub-Committee to exercise its powers. The membership of such Urgency Sub-Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, and two other Members nominated by the Group Leader or Leaders as appropriate to meet the requirements for the allocation of seats between political groups. Under current allocations this would mean an urgency Sub-Committee will consist of two Members from the Administration and one Member from the Official Opposition on the Council.
- 3.8 Such Urgency Sub-Committees may exercise their powers in relation to matters of urgency on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. Every decision of each Urgency Sub-Committee shall be reported for information to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee as appropriate.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The council's constitution provides for the appointment of the Sub-Committees and Urgency Sub-Committees, and it is for the Committee to determine this action and it could decide not to make such appointments. However, this would be contrary to the wishes of the council and is not therefore regarded as a viable alternative option.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 All Members considered and approved the allocation of seats to Committees and Sub Committees and the Terms of Reference of new Committees on 25th May 2023.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The recommendations are being put forward in line with the requirements of the constitution.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The financial implications of matters considered by the Urgency Sub-Committee will be included in reports to the Sub-Committee.

Finance officer consulted: James Hengeveld Date consulted: 02/06/2023

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The proposals in the report comply with the legal framework set out in the Localism Act 2011, the Local Government Act 2000 and other relevant legislation.

Lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted: 02/06/2023

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the report.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Children, Families & Schools Committee Terms of Reference

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Explanatory Note

This Committee is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health relating to children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19, and exercises the council's functions as Local Education Authority. Many of these services are delivered or commissioned jointly with the Health Service and, to reflect this, the Health and Wellbeing Board has concurrent delegated powers with this Committee. The Children, Families & Schools Committee is also the Council's Children and Young People's Trust Board for the purposes of the Children Act 2004.

Delegated Functions

To exercise the functions of the Council:

1. as a Local Education Authority under any enactment relating to education, youth services and the employment of children;
2. in relation to educational charities;
3. in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of education;
4. in relation to social services for children and young people;
5. in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families;
6. regarding families in connection with the functions of the Committee set out above or where there are no other arrangements made under this scheme of delegation;
7. under or in connection with the children and young people's partnership arrangements made with health bodies pursuant to section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and section 10 of the Children Act 2004 ("the section 75 Agreements");
8. in relation to children's public health including but not limited to:
 - sexual health
 - physical activity, obesity, tobacco control programme
 - prevention and early detection
 - immunisation
 - mental health
 - NHS health check and workplace health programmes
 - dental health
 - social exclusion
 - seasonal mortality;

9. in relation to those aspects of children's public health which transfer to the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Agenda Item 9

Subject: Proposals for the future of Hertford Infant and Hertford Junior Schools

Date of meeting: 12 June 2023

Report of: Executive Director Families, Children & Learning

Contact Officer: Name: Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation
Tel: 07584217328
Email: richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals to consider the future of Hertford Infant and Hertford Junior schools. Both schools are part of the Hertford Federation and so there is one governing board responsible for both schools.
- 1.2 In January 2023 the Children Young People & Skills (CYPS) committee determined to reduce the Published Admission Number of Hertford Infant School to 30 pupils from September 2024 noting it would “facilitate a move to a single form entry primary school, on one site, in the future”.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee agrees to undertake a consultation on the proposal to create a one form entry Hertford primary school on one site and for this to be implemented by relocating Hertford Infant School to the junior school site and extending the age range to pupils aged 4-11 years.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 During Autumn 2022 the Council undertook a consultation on admission arrangements for September 2023. It was proposed to reduce the PAN of Hertford Infant School to 30 pupils to “help facilitate a move to a single form entry primary school, on one site, in the future”.
- 3.2 In January 2023 the report to CYPS committee on the response to the consultation on the reduction in PAN included details of the responses received regarding Hertford Infant School. There were 7 responses, 2 respondents (28.5%) tended to disagree or strongly disagreed with this proposal compared to 3 respondents (43%) who strongly agreed or tended to agree with this proposal. 2 respondents (28.5%) didn't offer an opinion or didn't answer the question.

- 3.3 Several of the responses raised concerns about the potential of staff redundancies with a reducing PAN, and the impact on children who have additional needs as the proportion would be higher than in a larger school.
- 3.4 The additional question sought respondents' views about the possibility of Hertford Infant and Junior schools coming together on one site. Only one response was made to the question posed in the online response form indicating that this proposal seemed a sensible approach.
- 3.5 As outlined in [statutory guidance](#) on making significant changes to maintained schools, there are two ways to amalgamate two existing maintained schools. The first option is for the Council to publish proposals to close the two schools and the Council can then publish a proposal to open a new school. However, under the legislation the Council would be under a statutory duty to first seek proposals for the establishment of an academy. The second option is for the Council to publish a proposal to enlarge/change the age range and transfer the site of an existing school. This is the preferred option of the Hertford Federation.
- 3.6 There is a statutory process to make what are termed "prescribed alterations" to ensure the remaining school has the correct age range and that the school's location has changed.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the Council will follow the second option and relocate Hertford Infant School to the site of the junior school and extend its age range to admit pupils from ages 4 – 11 years. It is calculated that the walking distance between the main entrances of Hertford Infant and Hertford Junior sites is 0.5 mile.
- 3.8 The statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools has five stages:
- Stage 1 Consultation – when proposals are launched
 - Stage 2 Publication of statutory notices
 - Stage 3 Representation period of 4 weeks for further submission of comments on the proposals
 - Stage 4 Decision - the Council must decide on a proposal within 2 months of the end of the representation period
 - Stage 5 Implementation – there is no prescribed timescale within which closure/agreed alterations must happen, although there must be good justification if it is longer than 3 years.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the consultation would start on 19 June 2023 and close on 31 July 2023, although it is noted best practice would be for it to be held completely outside the school holidays. However, it does allow for a 6-week consultation period. A report will then come back to the Children, Families & Schools committee on 11 September 2023 with a summary of the responses received and a recommendation as to the next steps to take.
- 3.10 It is proposed that information events will be held during the period of consultation so that the proposals can be explained and any questions

answered. In addition, the events will be an opportunity to receive comments from the public.

- 3.11 It is anticipated that events will be held on the following days at the times stated:

Monday 26 June 11.00 - online event – [Teams meeting link](#)

Tuesday 27 June 18.00 – in-person event - Hertford Junior School

Wednesday 5 July 18.00 – online event – [Teams meeting link](#)

- 3.12 It is recognised that this proposal is being made at a time when the future number of surplus primary school places in the city continues to be a cause of concern and further action required has not yet been determined. However, the governing board are keen to progress with consulting on these proposals to provide their community and staff with as much certainty as is possible at this time.

- 3.13 Hertford schools have been federated since 2017, with an Executive Headteacher leading both schools since 2018. The values and ethos of the schools are aligned and the curriculum has been planned for consistency and continuity across both sites. Many staff already work across the two school sites. The new primary will build upon the current schools' development priorities. Moving to the junior site will provide excellent opportunities for the continuation of the development of outdoor learning. The junior school has extensive ground including forested areas, ponds, a full-sized football pitch, a large trim trail and several surfaced playground areas.

- 3.14 It is anticipated that there would need to be some capital works at the junior site to make it suitable for infant age pupils such as changing toilet pan sizes and providing age-appropriate height fittings in the infant classrooms. Any proposed changes will be discussed and agreed with the school and a suitable budget allocated to the project.

- 3.15 The council has no plans for any surplus accommodation that may become available as a result of the proposals under consideration. The council would require the prior consent of the Secretary of State for Education to dispose of any school land that was deemed surplus to requirements.

- 3.16 The process for disposing of or changing the use of a building previously used as a school is set out in the non statutory guidance 'Involving the Secretary of State in land transactions Non-statutory guidance on how and when to involve the Secretary of State in transactions involving land held for the purpose of a school' published in September 2021.

- 3.17 The Secretary of State may:

- approve the application with or without conditions; or
- refuse consent; or
- may separately consider whether to make a scheme under paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 to transfer land

that is held by a local authority and has been used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a school within the last eight years but is (or is about to be) no longer so used. Any use of the power would allow the authority to make representations.

- 3.18 This process can take some considerable time to complete and until the outcome is known the council will be in the position of having to maintain an empty building. The guidance suggests that no changes should be made until such time as the Secretary of State has made their decision. It is not unusual for this process to take up to 2 years from the point of making the application to the decision being made.
- 3.19 Maintaining an empty building can be a costly exercise, an empty building will deteriorate more swiftly than an occupied one.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The governing board have been provided with information to inform the decision making about which site would be the preferred location for the schools. Calculations have been informed by the [BB103 document](#), standards and guidance on the area of school buildings and grounds. This is non statutory advice from the Department for Education that has been produced to help recipients understand their obligations and duties in relation to the School Premises Regulations and includes a space calculator which can be used to calculate the size and type of spaces required in different types of schools based in the number of pupils in each key stage.
- 4.2 The minimum net internal area required for a one form entry primary school is 798m² the maximum net area is 926m². The infant site has a shortfall of accommodation of 163m² if it was to become an all through primary site whereas the junior school site has a surplus of 58m². In addition to this two of the spaces on the infant site are external modular type buildings that will eventually require replacement. If these spaces are excluded from the calculation it adds a further 120m² to the shortfall of accommodation.
- 4.3 The minimum net outside space required for a 1 FE primary school is 8730m² and the infant site has a shortfall of external space of 5,570m² if it was to become an all through primary site whereas the junior school site has a surplus of 5,560m².
- 4.4 It was therefore apparent that the infant school would be unable to provide the necessary accommodation internally or the external space requirements of BB103 for a 1 form entry primary school whereas the junior school site is able to provide both the internal accommodation and the external space required.
- 4.5 Consideration was also given to how the council may accommodate any future rapid increase in pupil numbers as previously experienced in the early 2010s. It is clear that the infant school site cannot reasonably sustain a 1 form entry school and therefore could not possibly sustain a 2 form entry primary school. Even if it were possible to provide the internal

accommodation the external space would be inadequate for 420 pupils, the lack of grassed team games playing space is not something that could be provided on the site.

- 4.6 The junior site could probably be adapted to provide the necessary internal space, either as temporary accommodation or a permanent expansion at first floor level (subject to funding and planning requirements). Currently the external space at the junior school would fall short of the requirements but only marginally (approximately 1,400m²) which is something that could likely be managed, for a period of time, through the use of staggered timetabling.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 This report seeks permission to undertake a public consultation on the proposals. The Hertford federation governing board support the proposals to consider the re-location of the schools to the Hertford Junior site and the creation of a one form entry primary school.
- 5.2 A public consultation is proposed to run between 19 June 2023 and 31 July 2023. This will include a response form hosted on the council's website <https://consultations.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>.
- 5.3 In addition, there will be 3 public events scheduled at various times of the day between 26 June and 5 July. These will be an opportunity for the proposal to be discussed in more detail, answer any questions that people may have and allow for comments about the proposal to be captured.
- 5.4 As outlined in Paragraphs 3.1 – 3.4 consideration to these proposals was explored in the autumn 2022 and of the limited responses received the indications were this was seen as a logical and reasonable approach to address the issues facing the schools.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is proposed to undertake a consultation on proposals to amalgamate Hertford Infant School and Hertford Junior School on one site as an all through primary school.
- 6.2 The proposals have the support of the Hertford Federation governing board which oversees both schools.
- 6.3 The early views of interested parties was requested as part of the school admission consultation in autumn 2022. There were not a significant number of responses to the proposals and there were some concerns about the potential site that would be chosen but no fundamental objections to the proposals being put forward.
- 6.4 The council intends to consult on proposals to create a one form entry primary school on one site by undertaking a statutory process as required by legislation.

- 6.5 A consultation will be undertaken between 19 June 2023 and 31 July 2023, prior to a report being taken to the Children, Families & Schools committee on 11 September 2023. It is proposed that any change would commence from September 2024.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 In proposing to amalgamate Hertford Infant School and Hertford Junior School on one site as an all through primary school there are certain arrangements regarding the calculation of the future years' budgets, particularly the lump sum element of funding that need to be considered.
- 7.2 In terms of the forward calculation of a merged school budget (assuming a full amalgamation) after 1st April in any given year, the new school will receive funding equivalent to the formula funding of the closing 2 schools for the appropriate portion of the year (i.e. 7/12ths if an amalgamation takes effect from September). This means the new school will receive the full combined lump sum allocation for the 2 predecessor schools for the remainder of that financial year. From the start of the next financial year the new school will receive 85% of the total of the predecessor schools' lump sums for one financial year. This would then reduce to one lump sum allocation the year after.
- 7.3 The LA will work closely with the schools to ensure future potential budget allocations are accurately modelled.

Finance officer consulted: Steve Williams Date consulted: 25/04/2023

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 In order to create a one form entry primary school, the Council has to follow the statutory process set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This requires the Council to close one of the schools and enlarge/change the age range of the other school. The first stage of the process is to conduct a statutory consultation. The Council is required to consult a specified list of consultees which includes parents, staff, and the governing bodies and staff of other schools that may be affected. It is for the Council to determine the length of the consultation however best practice dictates it should be for a minimum period of six weeks and during term time in order to maximise responses.

Lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston Date consulted 26/04/2023

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The public consultation will seek to understand what implications there will be for current or future parents/carers of children who attend either Hertford school.
- 9.2 The consultation process needs to take account of:
- young parents who may be less likely to respond to the consultation

- issues of accessibility and comprehension of the consultation process
- the materials made available
- ensuring that the decision-making process after the consultation is based on the content not just quantity of replies.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 Wherever possible the council aims to reduce the number of journeys to school undertaken by car. A reduction in the availability of school places across the city could risk a rise in the number of journeys undertaken by car.
- 10.2 Schools are expected to have a School Travel Plan to:
- reduce the number of vehicles on the journey to school
 - improve safety on the journey to school
 - encourage more active and sustainable travel choices
- 10.3 Any change in PAN is expected to require the school's travel plan to be re-written to take account of the change.
- 10.4 The consultation period will be an opportunity to explore what the potential impacts of these proposed changes will be and the report to a future committee meeting can be expected to detail these in more detail alongside recommendations for changes to be implemented.
- 10.5 Changes to the number of school buildings could lead to a reduction in the number of rooms and facilities being used which may lead to areas of a school being more efficiently managed in relation to energy use.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Agenda Item 10

Subject: Review of Fostering Allowances

Date of meeting: 12 June 2023

Report of: Executive Director Families, Children and Learning

Contact Officer: Karen Devine
karen.devine@brighton-hove.gov.uk
07795335966

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 To endorse an increase in allowances paid to BHCC foster carers in order to compete with Independent Fostering Agencies and adjoining Local Authorities in the recruitment and retention of foster carers.
- 1.2 Placement of BHCC children in care with our own foster carers ensures good quality care is provided for the children for whom we have corporate parenting responsibility and represents best value for money. There is a local and national shortage of foster carers and an ageing population of carers. To recruit and retain foster carers our allowances need to be competitive.
- 1.3 We have aligned our allowance age bandings to fit with the Government's National Minimum Allowance (MNA) which are designed to cover the care costs of looking after a child.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee agrees to increase fostering allowances as detailed in Option 2 in paragraph 4.2 in report.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 BHCC's corporate parenting vision is to be the best parents we can be to the children and young people in our care and those leaving our care and becoming adults. We want our children and young people to grow up in loving family care, be happy and healthy, both physically and emotionally, be safe and protected from harm and exploitation, and supported each step of the way to adult life.

- 3.2 Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 (updated 2004) to ensure there is adequate provision of care placements to meet the needs of the children and young people in their care, and care experienced young people, as far as is 'reasonably practicable'. This is known as the Sufficiency Duty.
- 3.3 Local authorities are challenged in various ways in meeting their sufficiency duty; rising numbers of children in care; older children in care; large sibling groups; children with more complex presentations including mental health difficulties; spontaneous arrivals of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children; and a national shortage of foster carers to meet the varying needs of our children in care.
- 3.4 We support children and young people in care to be cared for within their family or friendship network where possible. Our Kinship Care Team assess the suitability of extended family and friends to care for a child in care. Kinship carers must meet fostering regulation standards to be approved as kinship foster carers. Kinship carers receive a fostering allowance equivalent to the national Minimum Allowance recommended by the Government to support the costs of caring for a child. Most kinship carers go on to become legal guardians for the child they care for (Special Guardianship). Some kinship carers become long term kinship foster carers, usually due to the high support needs of the child they are caring for. Long term kinship foster carers can access the fee elements of the fostering allowance in the same way as unrelated foster carers, upon completion of the necessary training.
- 3.5 Where children cannot be cared for within their extended family or friends we look to place children in care with foster carers.
- 3.6 Significant effort is committed to the recruitment and retention of foster carers however there are a variety of challenges in achieving this. Nationally the profile of foster carers is aging (40% of foster carers nationally were aged 50+ in March 2021). There are specific challenges in recruiting carers in Brighton & Hove due to its small geographical location; high-cost housing; limited housing stock limiting availability of spare rooms which is a requirement for fostering; the Cost-of living crisis; campaigns such as Homes for Ukrainian Families; more flexible home working arrangements post pandemic; and Foreign Student Hosting have all impacted significantly on BHCC's foster carer recruitment during 2022. This, alongside very active competition from local profit-making Independent Fostering Agencies with significant marketing resources at their disposal makes recruitment and retention of foster carers very challenging which is why we are having to improve our fostering allowance offer.
- 3.7 Over the last year, due to demand, sufficiency in the market and rising costs, the average weekly cost of a residential placement has risen from £4247.45 to £5269.32. This puts significant pressure on the service and budget. In order to achieve savings it is necessary to reduce the number of children needing residential placement. When a child in care is placed with a BHCC foster carer rather than an Independent Fostering Agency carer there is an annual cost saving of £14,500; when placed with a BHCC foster carer rather

than a Residential Care Home provider, the annual cost saving is £246,700. For every 16-17 yr old placed with a BHCC foster carer rather than a Supported Accommodation provider the annual cost saving is £42,500.

- 3.8 Whilst there is a national shortage of foster carers for all children in care, there is a significant shortfall of carers available to care for teenagers. This has resulted in an increase in the number of 16 and 17yrs olds in expensive semi-independent provision. Recruitment of foster carers for older teenagers is a priority area for BHCC fostering recruitment. The increase in fostering allowances is part of the drive to increase the pool of carers available to care for this teenage cohort of children in care. We believe that family care is best for our children and young people and very few of our children in care are ready for semi-independent living at 16 and 17.
- 3.9 Within the placement sufficiency strategy an aim is to reduce the number of children in high-cost placements and ensure children receive care in a family environment wherever possible, to do this the following targets have been set for the service:
- Avoid step up/ Increase Step down from Residential by increasing the number of children and young people placed with Fostering Plus+ (FP+) carers by 5.
 - Increase the number of 16+ placed with foster carers by 5 p.a
 - Recruit 22 foster carers p.a
- 3.10 In order to achieve this, we need an effective Allowance structure that is competitive with Independent Fostering Agencies and neighbouring Local Authorities. It needs to match or exceed the national minimum allowance (NMA) rates; be consistent with national minimum wage and Fostering Network guidance; be simple and easy to understand, avoiding additional payments (such as birthday, Christmas, holiday, uniform and clothing). It should recognise and reward priority recruitment areas (caring for teenagers, preventing high-cost residential placements and 16+ supported accommodation).
- 3.11 Fostering Allowances are comprised of a care element which is designed to cover the costs of caring for a child of a certain age. Foster carers also receive a fee or skills payment which reflects training and experience. There are different types of fostering placements which require a higher level of skill and experience.
- 3.12 An Enhanced placement is where the need and complexity of the child/young person requires a high level of engagement by the foster carer across the professional network to understand and meet the child/young person's needs and maintain placement stability. These placements are demanding and the needs of the child are complex but the placement is not considered to be at risk of breakdown, and the child/young person is not considered at risk of requiring a residential placement.
- 3.13 A Parent and Child placement is where a foster carer supports one or both parents and their young child (usually under 2yrs of age) to care for the child

in the safety of the foster home. The foster carer will guide and support the parent/s to care for the child and intervene to secure the child's safety as necessary. These are complex and challenging placements and require the foster carer to provide comprehensive recordings which are used in the assessment of parental capacity within care proceedings when decisions are being made about whether the child can be safely cared for by the parents.

- 3.14 A Fostering Plus placement offers a step down from residential care to family placement for our most complex and challenging young people. The level of engagement with the professional network, availability and support to the young person is at an extremely high level. These young people are often out of school and engaging in highly challenging and problematic behaviours which require highly skilled care. Placements receive a comprehensive package of support including, enhanced foster carer supervision, therapeutic intervention, frequent network meetings, focused Fostering Support Officer time, and regular respite provided by a family member or foster carer to allow time for the carers to recharge.
- 3.15 Foster carers tell us they cannot afford to continue fostering on the allowances they currently receive. The cost-of-living crisis has impacted household finances significantly and carers are increasingly finding themselves out of pocket when caring for our children. Our recruitment targets will not be met if we do not increase allowances to carers.
- 3.16 The proposed changes are set out in Appendix 1- Table 1. The key changes are summarised below:
- Match or exceed the National Minimum Allowance weekly sum the government sets out as the absolute minimum it costs to care for a child of a specified age – known as the 'care element' of the fostering allowance.
 - Increase the care element for 3-4yr olds to £185 pw (+£7 pw)
 - Increase the care element for 16+17yr olds to £303 pw (+£37 pw)
 - Simplify the Fee/Skills payments to Level 1 Fee £175 pw (no change). Level 2 Fee £271 pw (+£49)
 - Offer a Retention Payment to foster carers 2x £250 paid in July and December (+£500)

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 **Option One** - Retain the current fostering allowance structure without any uplift. This option fails to address the significant foster carer recruitment challenges we are facing, and cost-of-living crisis our carers are experiencing. If we are unable to present the fostering of vulnerable children in care as a financially viable option for current and prospective foster carers we will face increasing challenges in our ability to identify appropriate family placements for our children and will see more children in care placed in costly care provision at a significant distance from their home, school, friends and family. There will be some children and young people for whom we will be unable to secure ofsted regulated placements.

4.2 Option Two - Adopt the proposed uplift to fostering allowances. This will ensure that foster carers can afford to cover the costs of caring for our children in care and can commit to fostering as a career. It will enhance our capacity to recruit foster carers for our harder to place cohort of older and more complex children, and ensure we are competitive with Independent Fostering Providers and neighbouring Local Authorities. Appendix 2 shows the difference between our current rates and those of neighboring authorities. Over 35% of our foster carers currently reside in West Sussex so this is the most relevant comparator. Increasing the number of BHCC foster carers, will increase placement choice for our children in care offering our older teenagers the opportunity to continue to experience family care until they are ready to move to independence.

4.3 The cost of the proposed uplift is £486k which is the equivalent of 2 Residential placements or 1 Residential placement and 4 Supported Accommodation Semi-Independent placements.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 We have engaged with our fostering community, fostering network which represents foster carers and Fostering Placements and Permanence staff group who support and supervise foster carers and kinship carers.

5.2 There is widespread support for the proposed changes to the fostering allowance structure.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Option Two is the preferred option. The proposed changes to the fostering allowances will reassure existing and prospective foster carers that they can afford to pursue a career in fostering vulnerable children in care for BHCC.

6.2 Uplifting our fostering allowances will enable BHCC to compete with neighbouring Local Authorities and Independent Fostering providers in the highly competitive market of foster carer recruitment.

6.3 BHCC foster carers will feel their concerns have been addressed and will feel valued and respected for the vital role they play in supporting our children in care to be the best they can be.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The 2023/24 budget for in-house placements is £9.343m. That includes an uplift as at 1st April 2023 of 3% following an increase of 7% in 2022/23. The proposed restructure of the allowances as set out in paragraph 3.11 above and appendix 1, have an estimated full year cost of £0.486m.

7.2 This proposal forms part of the overall financial strategy for the agency placement budget which totals £24.133m and is linked to the savings approved by Budget Council (i.e. is an element of the £1.282m saving in 2023/24 – page 464 of the Budget Council papers). The estimated additional

cost of £0.486m is the equivalent of a reduction of between 2-5 high-cost placements and will be funded from savings generated from within the overall 2023/24 agency placement budget.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted: 05/05/23

8. Legal implications

There are no legal implications, other than that the allowance paid to Special Guardians is based on what the Local Authority pay to foster carers (as a matter of both national practice based on High Court decisions and Brighton and Hove City Council's own policy) and that it is assumed that this has been factored into the financial calculations within this report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Andrew Pack Date consulted 01.06.23

9. Equalities implications

9.1 BHCC Fostering Placements and Permanence Service welcomes interest from all sections of the community and is actively seeking to recruit foster carers who reflect the needs of our children in care. We have worked with My Muslim Foster Family organisation over the last 2 years to increase understanding and interest in fostering across the various Black and Global Majority communities in the city.

9.2 We offer support to LGBTQ carers from My Family Social which is an organisation run by and for LGBTQ foster carers and adopters.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 Foster carers are aware of BHCC's carbon neutral pledge and are supported to work to this.

11. Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

11.1 An effective fostering allowance scheme will support individuals from all communities to consider applying to become foster carers for the city's children in care population.

Crime & disorder implications

11.2 Good quality foster care can support teenagers to address anti-social and offending behaviours.

Public health implications:

11.3 Foster carers adhere to public health guidance when looking after our children in care.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Table 1 Summary of Proposed Fostering Allowances 2023-24
2. Table 2 Comparison of Allowances with neighbouring Authorities

Appendix 1

Table 1 - Proposed Foster Care Allowances 2023- 24

Age band	Care / Fee change	Care element	Level 1 carer fee	Level 2 carer fee	Enhanced fee	Weekly payment
Level 1 F/C						
0-2	0/0	173	175			348
3-4	+7 /0	180	175			355
5-10	0/0	220	175			395
11-15	0/0	266	175			441
Level 2 F/C						
0-2	0/+49	173		271		444
3-4	+7/+49	180		271		451
5-10	0/+49	220		271		491
11-15	0/+49	266		271		537
16-17	+37/+49	303		271		574
Enhanced Placement – long term	0-+37/+49	Relevant Care element		271	96	96 + Care + Fee (587 -670)
Fostering Plus	+17	303		271	336	336 + Care + Fee (910)
Parent and Child	0-+37/+98	173 + 303		271 x2	96	1,114
Supported Lodgings Level 2	0/00		356	380		380 (max)
Staying Put	0/00	105		308		413

APPENDIX 2 – Allowance Comparison Table with West Sussex County Council and Independent Fostering Agencies

West Sussex County Council

- Additional payments approx £1,000 pa. festival, uniform, birthday, 2-week holiday payment.
- Mileage rate 20p per mile higher than BHCC.

Independent foster Agency - Compass (largest placements provider) and Bluesky

- Average + £2808 for additional payments over the year

No comparative data available for East Sussex as they are currently updating their allowance scheme

Age Bands	WSCC	B and H	IFA	Difference
Increase from Level 1 to level 2 carer	£130	£96		
0-2/4	462	444	510 average	BHCC £18 less than WSCC BHCC £66 less than IFA average
3-4	462	451	510 average	BHCC £11 less than WSCC BHCC £59 less than IFA average
5-10	495	491	510 average	BHCC £4 less than WSCC BHCC £19 less than IFA average
11-15	524	537	650 average	BHCC £13 more than WSCC BHCC £113 less than IFA average
16-17	573	574	650 average	BHCC £1 more than WSCC BHCC £76 more than IFA average
Parent and Child	1176	1114	1050 average	BHCC £62 less than WSCC BHCC £64 more than IFA average

Brighton & Hove City Council

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Agenda Item 11

Subject: School Meals Contract

Date of meeting: 12 June 2023

Report of: Executive Director Families, Children & Learning

Contact Officer: Name: Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation
Tel: 07584217328
Email: richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals to re-tender the School Meals Contract to take effect from August 2024. The current contract provides for the delivery of school meals in the majority of the City's primary schools, all special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee grants delegated authority to the Executive Director, Families, Children and Learning to take all necessary steps to enter into a contract for the provision of school meals for an initial term of four years with an option to extend for a further two periods of 12 months.
- 2.2 That the Committee grants delegated authority to the Executive Director, Families, Children and Learning to extend the contract subject to satisfactory performance of the contractor.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The provision of school meals is a responsibility of a school's governing body. In the City, the Council provides the option of delivering a centralised contract on behalf of schools who take the decision to buy into the service.
- 3.2 The current school meals contract was let on a 4+2 (extension able to be 1+1) basis with the first 4 year term due to finish on 31 July 2022 but decisions were taken to extend this for a further 24 months in total, to provide more time, post Covid and during the economic downturn and period of international uncertainty, to explore the options available to governing bodies and the Council to make the provision of school meals in primary and special schools.
- 3.3 Secondary schools in the city make their own arrangements to provide school meals.

- 3.4 The school meals provision is funded through a mixture of government grants and parental charges. In addition to the meals served there are also costs associated with the collection of dinner money, the maintenance/ replacement of heavy equipment, and the maintenance of kitchen areas to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Act. The value of sales of meals from the provision of universal infant school meals, free school meals and paid meals is approximately £3.5-4.0m per annum.
- 3.5 Any shortfall of funding must be met by school budgets in just the same way unallocated funding remains the responsibility of schools. The Council seeks to advise schools on appropriate budgeting to ensure that long term issues in relation to the provision of school meals are anticipated and do not present additional funding pressure.
- 3.6 Whilst the effectiveness of the tendering of the service provides the means to secure best value for public funds it is important to remember that the provision of a school meal has a significant impact on pupils in school and therefore consideration as to the method of meal service, the variety of the menu and the quality and provenance of the ingredients is also a significant factor.
- 3.7 The current contract was let with the following level of staffing in kitchens:
- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Cooks | 59 staff | 1806 hours per week |
| Assistant Cooks | 1 staff | 30 hours per week |
| General Assistants | 202 staff | 3371 hours per week |
- 3.8 The school meals procurement board ('the Board'), chaired by Jo Lyons Assistant Director Education & Skills, has been working on a consultation, analysis of options and recommendations since November 2021. The function of the Board has been to take responsibility for the strategic direction and management of the programme including the preparation of this report to the Procurement Advisory Board.
- 3.9 The top priority has been identified as the delivery of a balanced menu, using good/high quality ingredients to deliver an enjoyable safe meal service that enhances the school's meal-time arrangements.
- 3.10 It is important to note that the concerns that have developed through the course of the current contract have been operational issues however consideration must be given to the procurement process and specification that was used to identify a successful bidder. Learning from the current contract arrangements, the main areas for improvement has been identified as being in relation to:
- Overarching Quality Assurance System (ISO 9001 or equivalent),
 - Food Safety Management systems
 - health and safety systems of the provider including arrangements for the safe provision of school meals to those with special or restrictive diets due to allergy or intolerance.
 - the primacy of the nominated representative across the City-wide contract.

- 3.11 The Board identified that all of these areas can be addressed through changes in the service specification and setting clear evaluation criteria rather than the procurement method.
- 3.12 In determining that there is a role for the Council in the provision of school meals the Board was mindful of relevant studies and reports that considered the impact of changes at national level.
- 3.13 The Procurement Advisory Board (PAB) met on 3 April 2023 and resolved to provide the recommendations in this report to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee (Appendix 1).

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The weekly wage bill is calculated at approximately £53k. The contract requires staff to be paid the Living Wage Foundation wage. If the service was brought in-house the move to Council pay scales would be expected to cost, at least, an additional £6.8k per week as a result of the Council's lowest pay scale being £11.59 per hour.
- 4.2 With approximate on-costs of 30% this would be in the region of £9k. Assuming cooks and General Assistants are paid at a differential rate the actual additional cost would be higher than this.
- 4.3 In addition, the staff in school kitchens are supported by a local management team and services from its national company which would need to be replicated should the contract be delivered in-house. Functions currently undertaken at a regional or national level include the functions of an executive chef, nutritionist, learning & development, Health & safety, supply chain procurement and payroll functions.
- 4.4 As a rough estimate, this would be expected to add an additional £1.100m per year to the costs of running the service.
- 4.5 Should either the Council or a school undertake to deliver school catering services directly there are several issues to consider, additional duties and responsibilities to meet and extra staff functions to perform. Areas for consideration include the following:
- Compliance with food safety and health and safety legislation
 - Meals served meet the Government's School Food Standards – nutritional analysis would be required
 - Compliance with procurement regulations and the Council's Standing Orders as appropriate.
 - Collect and account for income and manage administration process
 - Manage the process for procuring food and other provisions, cleaning materials, equipment and furniture and operate payments systems for invoices
 - Management of food costs and stock control
 - Sourcing and undertaking ongoing reviews of appropriate suppliers for food, provisions and cleaning materials
 - Preparing & costing menus
 - Marketing to parents & pupils

- Staff training, including food safety to meet legislative requirements and ongoing staff supervision
- Arranging and budgeting for staff cover (sickness, maternity cover and statutory holiday pay).
- Procurement of replacement kitchen equipment and dining furniture

4.6 The Board concluded that in-house was not a viable option to take forward and this approach was supported by PAB.

4.7 In addition, several procurement routes to market have been assessed. Details of each including the preferred option is detailed below.

Option	Description of Option	Relative Advantages/Disadvantages
Option 1 – Preferred Option	Further Competition under ESPO framework for Catering Services	<p>ESPO (a public sector owned professional buying organisation) have already carried out a compliant procurement process, prequalifying a list of suppliers.</p> <p>A shorter procurement process than an Open/Restricted tender, saving on cost and efficiency.</p> <p>Terms and Conditions of contract have already been compiled by ESPO.</p> <p>The framework offers approx. 30 suppliers to deliver services to the South East, including the incumbent.</p>
Option 2	Open Tender Process	<p>Time consuming and resource intensive across service area and procurement.</p> <p>Could result in a long evaluation period as the tender would be open to the whole market, no pre-vetting of suppliers would apply.</p>
Option 3	Restricted Tender Process	<p>Same disadvantages as option 2 but as a 2-stage process would allow the Council to shortlist suitable suppliers before requesting responses to the ITT.</p> <p>This is not an advantage compared to option 1, as the framework has</p>

		already carried out the shortlisting process.
Option 4	Do Nothing	Not a viable option as the service needs to continue.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Following previous representations regarding the menu of dishes provided to pupils under the current school meals contract, adaptations to the meals on offer has increased the availability of non-meat and meals of plant origin (suitable for vegans) so that 60% of the current dishes on the 3-week menu contain no meat and there is a vegan option available each day. There is one meat/ fish free day per week and a ratio of 5:1 vegan to vegetarian options. Just 30% of the available dishes contain meat and 10% contain fish.
- 5.2 Our achievements to date are inline or ahead of other Local Authorities in terms of meat free days and meals of plant origin (suitable for vegans) and show the commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of the contract, whilst retaining choice, stimulating customer interest and maintaining the uptake of meals.
- 5.3 We will be seeking to award the contract to a provider who is committed to developing innovation alongside the Council and its partners who are prepared to generate imaginative approaches to improve their operation to enhance the environmental sustainability of the service provided.
- 5.4 To further inform the details of the Council's school meals specification an engagement activity is being undertaken to understand the views of residents, governing bodies and pupils about the provision of school meals. This will be through a targeted parent questionnaire, through feedback from a survey undertaken by pupils in the school setting and direct feedback from schools to cover key areas of the contract specification.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The report outlines the conclusions of the work undertaken to date to consider the Council's role to support schools to deliver school meals to pupils.
- 6.2 It is proposed that the Council enter into a call off contract through the ESPO Catering Services Framework, under Lot 1 for the provision of school meals for an initial term of four years with an option to extend for a further two periods of 12 months.
- 6.3 There is on-going work to develop a Brighton and Hove school meals specification that will be used in the procurement exercise to ensure that the City's schools have a suitable school meals service to use should governing bodies determine to be part of a future Council contract.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The report details the next stages to secure a school meals contract. The current budget for the contract is £3.800m. At this stage it is not possible to determine the final pricing, as there are several costs (e.g. food inflation) which are currently very volatile but it should be noted that the contract is tendered on behalf of schools who meet the full cost.
- 7.2 The possibility of providing the service in-house is detailed in section 4. It is difficult at the present time to accurately calculate the costs of this option, however, based on the experience of other Local Authorities and taking account of the additional costs of directly employing staff on BHCC terms and conditions, it is estimated that bringing the school meals service in-house could add £1.100m to the cost of delivering the service. This could be higher as it would be difficult to mitigate fixed costs associated with nutritionist, chef, trainers etc, that external providers are able to do by spreading costs across multiple contracts.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted: 19/04/23

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 By using a framework, the Council is complying with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in relation to the procurement and award of contracts above the relevant financial thresholds for services, supplies and works and the Council's contract standing orders (CSO's). In order to comply with CSO 3.1 authority to enter into these contracts in excess of £500,000 must be obtained from the relevant committee.

Name of lawyer consulted: Manjinder Nagra Date consulted: 24/04/23

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 There is a legal responsibility on governing bodies to ensure that school meals can be provided to pupils attending the school. The Council is proposing to support schools by undertaking a procurement activity to determine a provider of a centralised service under a 4 + 2-year contract.
- 9.2 The specification that the companies will be required to meet will conform to all national standards and the successful contractor will be required to provide a suitable menu and daily service to meet the needs of the City's pupils.
- 9.3 There has been on-going consideration as to the method of meal service, the variety of the menu and the quality and provenance of the ingredients in developing the new specification and it is expected that any provider on the ESPO Catering Services framework will be able to meet the needs of pupils' disability, religion or beliefs. As a result, no equalities impact assessment was undertaken for the purposes of this report.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 The School Meals service provides approximately 9400 meals each day.

10.2 The School Meals Service will require its suppliers to conduct their operations in a sustainable manner, in line with the Council's Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy. It is intended that:

- sustainability requirements will be detailed in the specification, which will form part of the contract, to include food waste, local procurement standards, carbon reduction and social value.
- environmental sustainability will form a proportion of the tender evaluation process of no less than 10% of the quality criteria.
- the contract will include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) linked to reducing environmental impact.

10.3 Through the Brighton & Hove Food Standards, the Council is committed to:

- ensuring public food and catering procurement meets the government's Buying Standards
- delivering and meeting its commitments made in the City-wide food strategy "Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan – 2018 to 2023" which sets out how the City is working:
 - towards a healthier more sustainable food system
 - to reduce food poverty
 - to support local food businesses
 - to reduce the environmental impact of the way in which we produce, consume and dispose of our food

10.4 The Food Strategy Action Plan is committed to:

- Aim 1: Champion healthy and sustainable food
- Aim 2: Take a preventative 'upstream' approach to food poverty and ensure equal access to healthy food
- Aim 3: Nourish a vibrant, diverse and skilled community food sector
- Aim 4: Improve sustainability and security in urban, rural and marine food production
- Aim 5: Encourage a vibrant and sustainable food economy
- Aim 6: Transform catering and food procurement
- Aim 7: Become a 'food use' not a 'food waste' City
- Aim 8: Ensure healthy, sustainable, fair food is embedded in policy and planning, and has a high profile right across the City

10.5 The Council is committed to continue working towards the provision of three plant-based days (only) per week when practically possible. We aim to encourage/nudge pupil choices through education to reduce the demand from pupils for meat products, without losing sight of the fact that ultimately school meals could be the one hot, nutritious meal a child receives each school day.

- 10.6 We will be seeking to award the contract to a provider who is committed to developing innovation alongside the Council and its partners who are prepared to generate imaginative approaches to improve their operation to enhance the environmental sustainability of the service provided.
- 10.7 The Council's good food standards are a minimum expectation and a partnership spirit, rather than aspirant key performance indicators is the key element that we will want any evaluation exercise to identify.
- 10.8 As outlined in Paragraph 5.1, 60% of the current dishes on the 3-week menu contain no meat and there is a meal of plant origin (suitable for vegans) option available each day. There is one meat/fish free day per week and a ratio of 5:1 vegan to vegetarian options. Just 30% of the available dishes contain meat and 10% contain fish.
- 10.9 The draft specification reflects the need to ensure that a child's dietary and health needs are supported whilst also seeking to maximise the uptake of a hot meal in school and the minimisation of food waste from uneaten or discarded meals.
- 10.10 As pupils continue to be educated to make informed choices about their behaviour and the need to protect the world in which they live, there is a need to ensure that the provider of school meals plays their part to educate and encourage pupils to think about the impact of the food that they eat whilst avoiding making value judgments on the choices made. It is also essential that the provider demonstrates awareness of issues to do with food tolerance and food sensitivity of pupils are considered alongside aims to reduce the negative impact of food preparation, transportation and consumption.
- 10.11 To evaluate the environmental sustainability of the contract, 10% of the quality weighting will be applied to this. The reason for this being that to meet health, climate and nature commitments we need to see reportable evidence of an increase in fruit, vegetables and fibre; a decrease in high fat, sugar and salt foods and less and better meat as set out in the National Food Strategy – The Plan.

11. Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

- 11.1 It is relevant and proportionate to include social value requirements within the procurement when the value, contract length and equality impact are taken into consideration.
- 11.2 The School Meals Service provides significant funding in the order of £3.5m pa to the local and wider economy through its school meals contract. The contract requires employers delivering services on the Council's behalf to pay the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage.
- 11.3 The procurement process will ask suppliers how they intend to deliver social value to support the objectives in the City Plan and outcomes of the Social Value framework.

- 11.4 Under the current contract the provider outlined their approach to support the Council to try and reduce the impact of food poverty through supporting CHOMP at low or nil cost, provide adult/child cookery sessions and through the training and development of skills.
- 11.5 Social value will form a 10% proportion of the tender evaluation process of the quality criteria.
- 11.6 It must be recognised that a consequence of a Framework arrangement is that operators can potentially join the framework from any part of the country. In reality there are a small number of large operators who make the provision for central/larger school meal contracts across the majority of schools in the country.
- 11.7 The criteria for admission to the ESPO framework includes the requirement for operators to meet the national School Food Standards but this will not provide all the requirements of a service to Brighton and Hove schools, as detailed above. However, it is unlikely that a local service provider has the capacity, skills and expertise, at this time, to deliver on a contract across 53 schools and serving 9400 meals daily.
- 11.8 We will be seeking to ensure the social value outcomes include increasing access to healthy, sustainable, affordable food and giving children the best start in life and to reduce inequalities.
- 11.9 We will discuss and agree appropriate Social Value outcomes with a range of stakeholders to include - public health, skills & employment team, governors, sustainability and social value procurement manager, procurement and contract officers. Taking into account survey responses from parents/pupils which will be undertaken later in the academic year.

Crime & disorder implications:

- 11.10 There are no crime and disorder implications in relation to this report.

Public health implications:

- 11.11 It is important for families to be able to have access to a school meals for their children that meets the nutritional standards set out by Government and takes account of their religious beliefs or disabilities.
- 11.12 It is proposed that the Council will undertake a procurement exercise to ensure that a centralised contract is available to schools who wish to take part.
- 11.13 The specification that the successful contractor is required to deliver will take account of the nutritional and dietary needs of the City's pupils as outlined in the body of the report.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Report to Procurement Advisory Board 3 April 2023

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
PROCUREMENT ADVISORY BOARD

2.00pm 3 APRIL 2023

VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Osborne (Chair), Yates (Opposition Spokesperson), Evans and Druitt

4 SCHOOL MEALS CONTRACT

- 4.1 The Head of School Organisation, Richard Barker, introduced the report starting on page 25 of the agenda.
- 4.2 Cllr Yates stated that setting up an advisory board for the procurement had worked well and highlighted that future complex procurements may wish to consider doing the same.
- 4.3 The Head of Procurement, Cliff Youngman, confirmed that:
- Following the Home to School Transport issues, setting up an advisory procurement board was felt to be most appropriate given the highly politically sensitive nature of school meals and to ensure the best contract was brought to PAB before going to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.
- 4.4 **RESOLVED:** The Procurement Advisory Board to provide recommendations to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee on the following:
- i. The procurement and award of a contract for School Meals, with an initial term of 4 years, commencing on the 1 August 2024, with the option to extend for a further 2 periods of 12 months.
 - ii. To note the conclusion of the School Meals Procurement Board
 - iii. The procurement will be via a further competition through a framework agreement, ESPO Catering Services, under Lots 1.
 - iv. That delegated responsibility be awarded to the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning to procure and award the contract (including any extension years).
 - v. The proposed specification of the contract under which the governing boards of primary schools, special schools or the Pupil Referral Unit can determine to be part of.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Children, Families & Schools Committee

Agenda Item 12

Subject: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Date of Meeting: 12th June 2023

Report of: Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning

Contact Officer: Name: Vicky Jenkins
Tel: 01273 296110
Email: vicky.jenkins@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of report and policy context

- 1.1 Statutory guidance requires councils to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare in accordance with Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 (as amended), and make this report available and accessible to parents. This report informs the committee about childcare sufficiency in Brighton & Hove, parents' and providers' views of childcare in the city and the national and local policy context.
- 1.2 The report contributes to the council's [Early Years Strategic Action Plan](#) in particular to ensure that there are sufficient early years childcare places so that disadvantaged children can take up their early years free entitlement (EYFE) and parents can work.
- 1.3 The last CSA was published in 2019. The gap between CSAs is the result of the Covid-19 pandemic and capacity in the early years team.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee notes the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The CSA is published to parents and childcare providers, so that childcare providers can develop their provision to meet local needs.
- 2.3 Further work is carried out with early years childcare providers to assess their capacity to offer the extended [childcare support offer](#)
- 2.4 Early years providers are supported to review their business and operating models, as resources allow, to ensure that with the anticipated increase in funding, standalone Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) provision is available as widely as possible. Further support should be put in place for staff recruitment and retention once DfE plans are known.

- 2.5 Family Hubs develop support for parents through the direct service and the digital family hub to ensure that they are able to take up their full EYFE, including the extended childcare support offer, as well as access government support with childcare costs.
- 2.6 The increased funding rates for providers for additional support and inclusion for children with SEND which came into effect from April 2023 are monitored to see whether these result in improved parental satisfaction.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Early education, through the early years free entitlements (EYFE) and childcare is a significant part of the council's support to parents, particularly in the early years. The current offer includes EYFE for disadvantaged two-year-olds for 15 hours a week¹, 15 hours of EYFE for all three and four year olds and an extended entitlement to 30 hours EYFE for three and four year olds of working parents. Parents can also receive help with childcare costs² through tax free childcare or a childcare element of universal credit. Parents can claim a higher amount of tax-free childcare if they have a disabled child.
- 3.2 Private nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups offer the majority of early years provision in the city, with a smaller amount by maintained providers (nursery classes in maintained schools and the two standalone nursery schools), as well as the council's family hub nurseries. Breakfast clubs for school-age children are now all school-run, with after-school clubs a mix of private providers on school and community premises, and school-run. Holiday play schemes, with one exception, are all run by private providers.
- 3.3 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which offers free enriching activities in the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays to school-age children on free school meals, has been in place since 2021. As "activities" and not "childcare" HAF provision is not included in the CSA.
- 3.4 The council administers EYFE funding, as approved by the Schools' Forum, which comes from the early years block of the dedicated schools grant. Funding rates from the DfE are low, and do not always meet provider costs. Rates have risen this year (2023/24) as a result of an update to the underlying data which informs the funding model, but a cap has meant that the government has not passed on the full increase. Because of low funding rates providers frequently charge parents for additional hours of early years provision, wrapping around the free hours, resulting in a limited amount of standalone EYFE available to parents.
- 3.5 The early years team has updated its provider agreement for provision of EYFE and audited all providers with a particular focus on transparency and clarity for parents, the requirement to offer standalone provision, and a clearly published offer on provider websites. This has been a time-consuming process, and has highlighted the ongoing need to work with providers to ensure compliance with [statutory guidance](#).

¹ EYFE is for 15/30 hours a week, term time only, which equates to 570/1140 hours a year.

² For provision registered with Ofsted

- 3.6 Children in Brighton & Hove are less likely to access their full EYFE entitlement³ than in the South East and England as a whole; this may be a result of the additional charges made by providers in the city who do so in order to cover their costs.
- 3.7 In the March 2023 budget, the government announced a significant increase to EYFE and childcare for working parents.
- 3.5.1 From April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare.
- 3.5.2 From September 2024, 15 hours of free childcare will be extended to all children from the age of nine months.
- 3.5.3 From September 2025, working parents of children under the age of five will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week.
- 3.8 This increase in the EYFE offer will mean that the government, not parents, will be the largest purchaser of childcare nationally.
- 3.9 The DfE advise that there will also be an increase in funding rates for EYFE from September 2023 to around of £8.00 for two-year-olds (currently £6.13 in Brighton & Hove), and over £5.50 for three and four year olds (currently £5.02⁴ in Brighton & Hove).
- 3.10 There will also be grants for new childminders and support for schools and other providers to develop wrap around care (breakfast and after-school clubs) for school-aged children.
- 3.11 At the time of writing the DfE has not provided any details of support for local authorities and childcare providers to implement the new offer. However, while in some cases the new offer will result in parental fees being replaced by government funding (in which case there will not be additional demand for places) the Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that in England 60,000 more parents will enter the workforce as a result, while many will increase their hours.
- 3.12 The inclusion of babies in the EYFE offer for the first time will present significant challenges; many pre-schools only take children from the age of two and do not have suitable premises for babies. This may impact their sustainability with parents having to choose full day care providers in order to access their EYFE for their child from nine months old.

4. Childcare sufficiency assessment main findings

- 4.1 The CSA surveyed parents in the city through the council's consultation portal, with 482 responses. All childcare providers were surveyed, with the majority of nurseries, pre-schools, playgroups and after-school clubs responding. There was a limited response from childminders.

³ 12.5 to 15 hours a week as a proxy for the full offer

⁴ This is the gross rate – the local authority takes 5% of the total funding for central costs. The funding for three and four year olds is passed on through a formula with supplements for deprivation and quality.

- 4.2 National data regarding childcare supply, quality and costs was also analysed and is presented in the CSA.
- 4.3 The childcare market in Brighton & Hove continues to be buoyant. Although early years childcare settings have closed, mainly because of small numbers of children, new ones have opened, and overall there has been an increase in early years childcare places, which is not the case nationally. However, all the voluntary sector providers which have closed have been replaced by private providers.
- 4.4 While childcare provision is not spread evenly throughout the city, the CSA did not find any significant geographical gaps. This does not mean that parents can always find their choice of childcare in the location they prefer and the times that they want or need.
- 4.5 Parents are satisfied with the quality of provision, its location and opening hours and the way their child's individual needs are met, but less satisfied with childcare choice and flexibility.⁵ The greatest degree of dissatisfaction was with childcare affordability, with 39.5% very/fairly satisfied, compared with 49.4% in 2018.
- 4.6 In terms of ease of finding EYFE, 60.2% of parents said that it was very/fairly easy to find, compared with 70.2% in 2018. 75.8% paid for additional hours in addition to the free ones (up from 69.9% in 2018), and 74.4% said that this was because they needed more hours in order to work or train.
- 4.7 There was less satisfaction with childcare overall from parents of a child with SEND⁶ and single parent households.⁷
- 4.8 Childcare quality in the city as judged by Ofsted remains high but has recently dipped compared with South East and England. This may be a consequence of significant staff recruitment issues in the city.⁸
- 4.9 There has been a 31.5% reduction in the number of early years places with childminders in the city, higher than the national reduction of 27.3%.⁹
- 4.10 Compared with 2018 more full day care settings offer earlier morning opening with 48% open before 8 am (42% in 2018), but fewer open after 6 pm (23% in 2023, 26% in 2018)
- 4.11 Of the childminders responding to the survey six stated that that they provided care on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday meaning that options childcare for parents who want or need to work non-traditional hours are very limited.
- 4.12 Childcare costs have increased since 2018.¹⁰

⁵ However, there is less dissatisfaction with these elements of childcare than there was in the last CSA.

⁶ 50.9% of parents with a child with SEND were very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall, compared with 77.6% of parents who did not have a child with SEND.

⁷ 68.3% of single parent households wither very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall, compared with 75.3% of two parent households.

⁸ 77% of early years providers stated that they had difficulty recruiting/retaining staff

⁹ Ofsted data

¹⁰ 2018 costs in brackets

- 4.13 Average price for a full day¹¹ of childcare £65.51 (£54.00 per day in 2018). Additional hours (early opening, late closing) £11.23 per hour
- 4.14 The average price for sessional care is £6.42 per hour (£5.57 per hour in 2018).
- 4.15 The average of price of childminding is £5.73 per hour (£5.43 per hour in 2018).
- 4.16 The average price of an after-school club session is £12.99, (£12.18 in 2018).
- 4.17 The average price of a holiday playscheme is £33.64 per day,¹² (£29.56 in 2018).
- 4.18 Childcare costs in Brighton & Hove are higher than South East and England averages.
- 4.19 Childcare providers' reported significant challenges with staff recruitment and retention.¹³
- 4.20 The number of children under five in the city has fallen since 2018, which means that there are now fewer children per early years childcare place, which should result in more choice for parents. However, falling child numbers also has an impact on childcare providers' sustainability with closures as a result of low numbers.

5. Analysis & consideration of any alternative options

- 5.1 The recommendations follow statutory guidance which requires local authorities to report on how they are meeting their statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare.

6. Community engagement & consultation

- 6.1 Parent survey data was collected through Brighton & Hove City Council's consultation portal between 14th December 2022 and 29th January 2023.
- 6.2 The survey was publicised through the school's bulletin and by email to all early years providers and community groups.
- 6.3 Amaze shared the survey through its Compass database.
- 6.4 The survey was shared through social media (Facebook and Twitter) including being regularly re-tweeted by the council.
- 6.5 All Ofsted-registered childcare providers were contacted for childcare supply information, both through an online survey and directly by telephone.

6. Conclusion

¹¹ For a 10 hour day

¹² The price is for a standard day, excluding any earlier or later hours that can be purchased; day lengths range from six to 10 hours

¹³ The DfE has stated "We are continuing to explore how we best support the early years sector to recruit and retain the staff it needs. We will work closely with the sector to develop plans to grow and improve the quality of the workforce."

- 6.1 High quality childcare should continue to be supported in Brighton & Hove as part of the council's early years action plan, and as outlined in the recommendations above.

7. Financial & other implications

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Funding for the EYFE for eligible two, three and four-year-olds is from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 3.1 Current funding for two-year-olds is now above the national average, but 29p per hour below the average for the southeast. Brighton & Hove's gross rate of £5.02 per hour for three and four-year-olds remains below the national average of £5.31 per hour and the southeast average of £5.36 per hour. We are still the lowest funded of unitary authorities in the southeast.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steve Williams

Date: 17/05/2023

Legal Implications:

- 7.1 Local authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare in accordance with Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 (as amended) and make this report available and accessible to parents.

7.2 Lawyer Consulted: Serena Williams

Date: 16/05/2023

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Documents in Members' Rooms

Background Documents

Appendix One

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

Parental Survey

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

Overview

We want to hear your views about childcare in Brighton & Hove. Your views will help us assess demand for childcare places and help us support local childcare providers to meet your needs.

Findings from the questionnaire will be published on the council's website as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022. If you have any questions or comments about this questionnaire please email eyc@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Privacy Notice

Brighton & Hove City Council is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act (2018) and The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR") and is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Brighton & Hove City Council is committed to protecting your personal information. As data controller we have responsibility to make sure that you know why and how your personal information is being collected in accordance with relevant data protection law.

Purposes and Lawful Basis of Processing

We are collecting your data for the purpose of completing a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. We have a legal basis for processing data under GDPR Article 6, public task, in accordance with the Childcare Act 2006 Section 6 duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and Section 7 duty to secure early years provision free of charge in accordance with regulations and associated statutory guidance.

If you disclose any special category information, our legal basis for processing is GDPR Article 9, 2(b) and the Data Protection Act 2018 Schedule 1, Part 2, Paragraph 6

Processing this data is in the public interest so that council officers can understand whether there is sufficient childcare and early years provision in Brighton & Hove, report to elected members, and address any gaps.

Who We Will Share Your Data With

Your data will only be shared internally with relevant council officers.

The anonymised data will be included in a public report to the council's Children, Young People and Skills Committee in order to inform on how the council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare. The report will be compiled from the survey information and all references to personal or special category data will be removed and not included in the report. Anonymised data will also be published through the council's website.

How Long We Will Hold Your Data (Retention)

We will hold your data until year ending 31st December 2023.

Transferring Data Outside the European Economic Area

Your information is not processed outside the European Economic Area

Your Information Rights

Under GDPR you have certain rights concerning your information
For further information on your rights visit our website

[data-protection-rights-policy-january-2019.pdf](#) (brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Further Information

If you would like to discuss this further please contact our Information Governance Team on 01273 295959 or data.protection@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The council also has a Data Protection Officer who can be contacted via brighton-hove.gov.uk/dpo <<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/dpo>>
You can also contact the ICO for further information or to make a complaint.

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545 745

icocasework@ico.org.uk

Report a Concern on the ICO Website

ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint <<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>>

About your children

Q1 How many children do you have aged 0 to 14? (Include children aged up to 18 if they have a special educational need or disability).

(Required)

Please select only one item

- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- More than four

How old are your children, and do they have a special educational need or disability?

When answering these two questions please start with your youngest child as 'Child 1' adding any further children by increasing age.

Q2a How old are your children?

Child 1

Please select only one item

- Less than 1 year old
- Aged 1
- Aged 2
- Aged 3
- Aged 4
- Aged 5
- Aged 6
- Aged 7
- Aged 8
- Aged 9
- Aged 10
- Aged 11
- Aged 12
- Aged 13
- Aged 14
- Aged 15
- Aged 16
- Aged 17
- Aged 18

Child 2

Please select only one item

- Less than 1 year old
- Aged 1
- Aged 2
- Aged 3
- Aged 4
- Aged 5
- Aged 6
- Aged 7
- Aged 8
- Aged 9
- Aged 10
- Aged 11
- Aged 12
- Aged 13
- Aged 14
- Aged 15
- Aged 16
- Aged 17
- Aged 18

Child 3

Please select only one item

- Less than 1 year old
- Aged 1
- Aged 2
- Aged 3
- Aged 4
- Aged 5
- Aged 6
- Aged 7
- Aged 8
- Aged 9
- Aged 10
- Aged 11
- Aged 12
- Aged 13
- Aged 14
- Aged 15
- Aged 16
- Aged 17
- Aged 18

Child 4

Please select only one item

- Less than 1 year old
- Aged 1
- Aged 2
- Aged 3
- Aged 4
- Aged 5
- Aged 6
- Aged 7
- Aged 8
- Aged 9
- Aged 10
- Aged 11
- Aged 12
- Aged 13
- Aged 14
- Aged 15
- Aged 16
- Aged 17
- Aged 18

Q2b Which, if any, of your children have SEND? (Please select all that apply).

Please select all that apply

- Child 1
- Child 2
- Child 3
- Child 4

Q3 Do you use childcare and/or free early education for any of your children? (This includes informal childcare such as when friends or family look after your child(ren)).

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

About your children

Q4 Please tell us which children you use childcare and/or free early education for? (Please start with your youngest child).

	Yes	No
Child 1 (youngest child) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 2 <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 3 <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child 4 <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reasons for not using childcare

Q24 Which of the following reason(s) best describe why you do not currently use childcare? Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- I am at home to look after my children
- My partner is at home to look after my children
- My children are old enough to look after themselves
- I do not trust anyone to care for my children
- There is no childcare available for my children's age
- My children are at school and my work fits around school hours
- I am not happy with the quality of childcare available
- I cannot find childcare that fits my working hours
- I previously used childcare and was not happy with it
- I cannot find childcare that meets my child's special needs
- I cannot find childcare that meets my child's cultural or religious needs
- Childcare is not welcoming to me and my family
- Childcare is in the wrong location or too difficult to get to
- The cost is too expensive
- I cannot earn enough to make it worthwhile financially
- I only need childcare on an occasional basis and this is not available
- I cannot find the flexible childcare I need
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Your youngest child in childcare or free early education

Please answer these questions thinking about your youngest child in childcare or free early education.

Q5 Does your youngest child in childcare or free early education have a special educational need or disability?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

Q6 Which type(s) of childcare do you use for your youngest child in childcare or free early education? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- After school club
 After school activity (like sport or drama)
 Breakfast club
 Childminder
 Day nursery (open all year round)
 Pre-school/playgroup
 School nursery class
 Holiday playscheme
 Holiday activity (like sport or drama, including the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme)
 Friends/family (other than partner)
 Nanny/au pair
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q7 How easy or difficult was it for you to find childcare or free early education for your youngest child in childcare?

Please select only one item

- Very easy
 Fairly easy
 Neither easy nor difficult
 Fairly difficult
 Very difficult

Q8 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of childcare or free early education for your youngest child in childcare?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
Affordability <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opening hours <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way their individual needs are met <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flexibility (such as your child being able to attend different sessions to match your working pattern) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amount of choice available <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transparency on fees, charges and invoicing <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your childcare arrangements overall <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9a Would you like childcare or free early education to be available at different times for your youngest child in childcare?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/not sure

Q9b If yes, what different times would you like? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Before 7 am
- 7 am to 8 am
- 8 am to 9 am
- 3 pm to 6 pm
- After 6 pm
- Saturday childcare
- Sunday childcare
- During the school holidays
- Overnight

Q10 Do you have another child using childcare or free early education?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

Your second youngest child in childcare or free early education

Please answer these questions thinking about your second youngest child in childcare or free early education.

Q11 Does your second youngest child in childcare or free early education have a special educational need or disability?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

Q12 Which type(s) of childcare do you use for your second youngest child in childcare or free early education? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- After school club
 After school activity (like sport or drama)
 Breakfast club
 Childminder
 Day nursery (open all year round)
 Pre-school/playgroup
 School nursery class
 Holiday playscheme
 Holiday activity (like sport or drama, including the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme)
 Friends/family (other than partner)
 Nanny/au pair
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q13 How easy or difficult was it for you to find childcare or free early education for your second youngest child in childcare?

Please select only one item

- Very easy
 Fairly easy
 Neither easy nor difficult
 Fairly difficult
 Very difficult

Q14 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of childcare or free early education for your second youngest child in childcare?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
Affordability <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Location <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opening hours <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way their individual needs are met <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flexibility (such as your child being able to attend different sessions to match your working pattern) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amount of choice available <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transparency on fees, charges and invoicing <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your childcare arrangements overall <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q15a Would you like childcare or free early education to be available at different times for your second youngest child in childcare?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Don't know/not sure

Q15b If yes, what different times would you like? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Before 7 am
 7 am to 8 am
 8 am to 9 am
 3 pm to 6 pm
 After 6 pm
 Saturday childcare
 Sunday childcare
 During the school holidays
 Overnight

About childcare

Q16 How do you find out about childcare in your area? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Brighton & Hove Family Information Service/Family Services Directory
- Brighton & Hove City Council website
- Job centre
- Health service (health visitor, midwife, GP)
- Children's centre
- School
- Library
- Local advertising (leaflet, poster, local newspaper)
- Internet
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Friends/family
- Employer
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q17 What are your reasons for using childcare? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- So that I can work
- So that I can look for work
- So that I can study/train
- So that I can look after the home or other children
- So that I can go shopping/attend appointments/socialise
- For my child/children's educational development
- Because my child/children enjoy it
- So that my child/children can make friends
- So that my child/children can take part in different activities
- For emergency care only
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q18 Do you receive any help towards the cost of your childcare from any of the following sources? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Childcare element of Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Tax Free Childcare
- Employer childcare vouchers
- Care to Learn
- Free early education for two, three and four year olds

About free early learning/free childcare

Q19 Do you have any children aged two, three or four?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

About free early learning/free childcare

Free early learning

Two year olds from low income families, as well as those who are disabled or adopted from care, are entitled to 15 hours a week of free early learning at a nursery, pre-school or with a childminder from the term after their second birthday. All three and four year olds are also entitled to this, from the term after their third birthday. In addition three and four year olds whose parents are working are entitled to 30 hours a week of free early learning. Some providers offer fewer hours a week but all year round.

Q20 Do you use free early learning for your child?

	Yes	No	Not sure
15 hours a week of free early learning for some two year olds <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 hours a week of free early learning for all three and four year olds <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30 hours a week of free early learning for some three and four year olds <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21 If you are eligible for free early learning but do not use it, what is the reason? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- I don't want this for my child
- I prefer to have my child at home with me
- I cannot find a nursery, pre-school or childminder who provider who will offer me the free hours
- I receive help with childcare costs through Universal Credit/Working Tax Credit and so I don't need to take up the free hours
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q22 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
I am happy with the free session times I have been offered <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am happy with the choice of providers of free early learning <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It was easy for me to find free provision <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23a Do you pay for any additional hours on top of your free early learning?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

Q23b If yes, why do you have additional hours on top of your free ones?
Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- I need more hours than the free ones in order to work/train
 I want my child to attend for more than just the free hours
 The way my nursery/pre-school/childminder offers their sessions means that I need to purchase additional hours in order to get the free ones
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Q23c Do you pay for any of the following services in addition to your free early learning?

	Yes	No
I pay extra for food, such as breakfast, lunch or snacks <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I pay extra for special classes or outings <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I pay for other services <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23d Have you ever had difficulty understanding your invoice form your childcare provider, or the fees you are charged?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable

Q23e Have you ever had difficulty understanding the number of free early learning hours you are receiving for your child?

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

About you

Q25 What is your postcode?

Q26 Which of the following best describes your household?

Please select only one item

- I have sole responsibility for my child(ren)
 I share responsibility for my child(ren) with someone I live with
 I share responsibility for my child(ren) with someone I do not live with

Q27 Which of these best describes what you are doing at the moment?

Please select only one item

- Employed full-time
 Employed part-time
 On maternity leave
 Self-employed
 Unemployed and available for work
 Retired
 Permanently sick or disabled
 Looking after the home/children
 Full-time education at school, college or university
 Other, please give details below

Q28 Do you receive any of the following benefits? Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Universal Credit
 Working Tax Credit
 Income Support
 Employment and Support Allowance
 Job Seeker's Allowance
 None of these

Q29 Do you have any other comments about childcare in Brighton & Hove?

About you

The reason we ask these questions is so that we can

Make council services open to everyone in the city

Treat everyone fairly and appropriately when they use our services

In consultations, make sure that we have views from all across the city

The Equality Act 2010 makes these aims part of our legal duties. Your answers help us check that we have met the law and help improve services.

You do not have to answer these questions; however by doing so you will help us improve our services. The answers you provide will be collated with all equalities data we collect, thereby ensuring that individuals will not be identified. We will use this information in a completely anonymous and confidential manner and protect your information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

A How old are you?

B What gender are you?

Please select only one item

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

If other, please specify

C Do you identify as the sex you were assigned at birth?

For people who are transgender, the sex they were assigned at birth is not the same as their own sense of their sex.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

D How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Please select only one item

- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian Background
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Any other Black background
- Mixed: Asian & White
- Mixed: Black African & White
- Mixed: Black Caribbean & White
- Mixed: Any other mixed background
- White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- White: Irish
- White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Any other White background
- Other ethnic group: Arab
- Other ethnic group, please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Other ethnic group

E Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Please select only one item

- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual/'Straight'
- Lesbian
- Other, please give details below
- Prefer not to say

If other, please specify

F What is your religion or belief?

Please select only one item

- I have no particular religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jain
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Pagan
- Sikh
- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Other religion, please give details below
- Other philosophical belief, please give details below
- Prefer not to say

If other, please specify

G Armed Forces Service

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces? (this includes reservists or part-time service, such as the Territorial Army) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces? <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are you a member of a current or former serviceman or woman's immediate family/household? <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

H1 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Please select only one item

- Yes a little
- Yes a lot
- No
- Prefer not to say

H2 Please let us know the type of impairment which applies to you

If you have more than one impairment please indicate all that apply.

If none of the categories apply, please select 'Other' and fill in the additional box.

Please select all that apply

- Physical Impairment
- Sensory Impairment
- Learning Disability / Difficulty
- Long-standing Illness
- Mental Health Condition
- Autistic Spectrum
- Developmental Condition
- Other (please specify)

If other, please specify

I1 Are you a carer?

A carer provides unpaid support to family or friends who are ill, frail, disabled or have mental health or substance misuse problems.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

I2 As a carer, who do you care for?

Please select all that apply

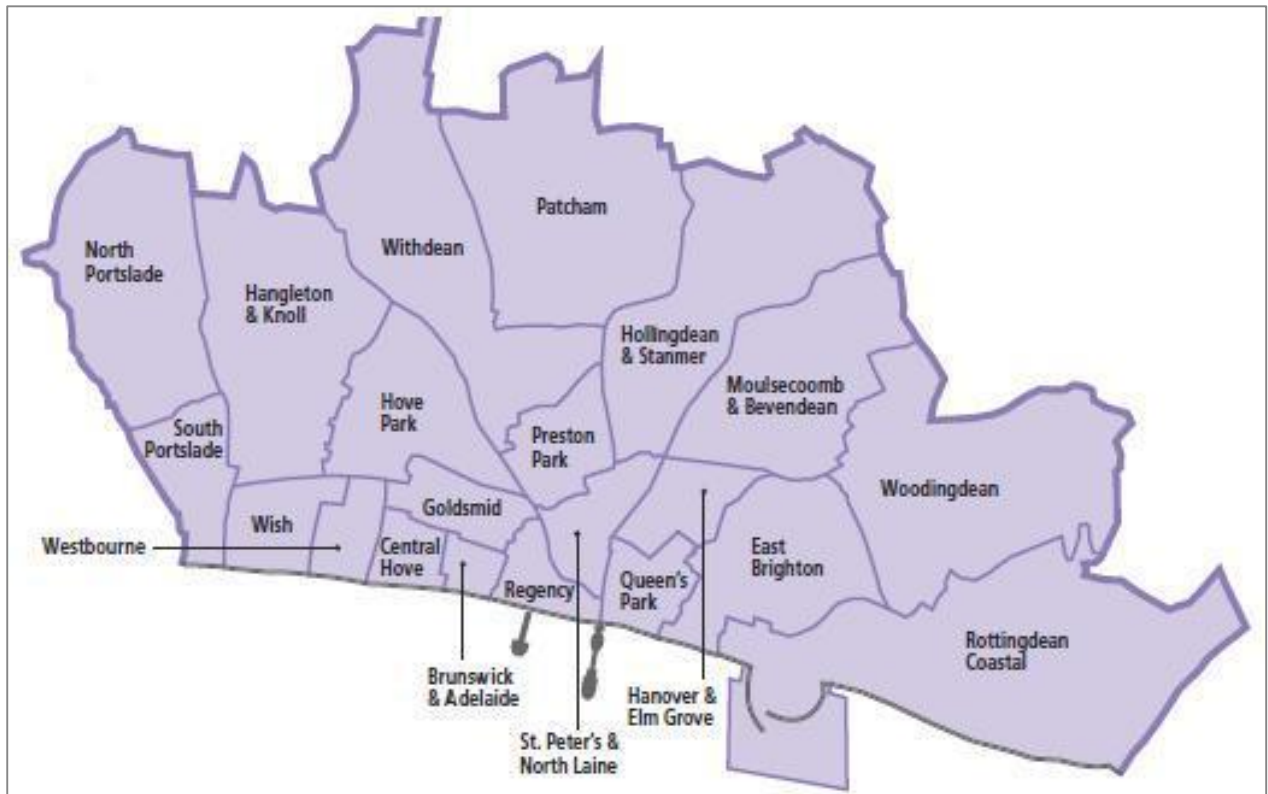
- Parent
- Child with special needs
- Other family member
- Partner / spouse
- Friend
- Other

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment May 2023

Appendix 2

Ward Map

Map shows ward boundaries prior to changes in May 2023



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Brighton & Hove City Council

May 2023

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was undertaken in accordance with the Department for Education's [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, April 2023](#). Local authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare in accordance with Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 (as amended), and make this report available and accessible to parents.

A city-wide parental childcare demand survey was carried out between December 2022 and January 2023 and supply data was collected from childcare providers between November 2022 and April 2023.

The previous CSA was published in 2018.

This CSA supports Brighton & Hove City Council's [Early Years Strategic Action Plan](#).

This CSA was produced by
Vicky Jenkins, Childcare Strategy Manager

With support from
Gemma Brookshaw, Early Years Finance Officer
David Golding, Senior Analysis and Research Officer
Tessa Montgomery, Early Years Finance Officer
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1. Main Findings

There is a good supply of and demand for early years and childcare provision in Brighton & Hove and the childcare market is relatively buoyant. A number of early years settings have closed since the last CSA published in 2018, although others have opened, and there has been an overall increase in early years places.

Early years provision is high quality and and take-up of early years free entitlements (EYFE) by two year olds is higher than the national average.¹ However, while the percentage of two year olds taking up their EYFE has risen since 2018² (nationally it has remained the same), the percentage of three and four year olds taking up EYFE has fallen from 97% to 94%.³

Parents who responded to the survey were generally satisfied with childcare, but had concerns about its cost, would like more choice and would like it to be more flexible. Parents of a child or children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) were less satisfied with childcare than those with a child or children without SEND.

1.1 Childcare demand

In general parents who responded to the survey were satisfied with childcare particularly its quality, and levels of satisfaction had improved in all areas since 2018, apart from affordability, where satisfaction had dropped by five percentage points, and ease of finding childcare which had dropped by 1.8 percentage points.

The parental survey found that⁴

- Those using childcare had a reasonably high level of satisfaction with their childcare arrangements overall with 74.4% (73.6%) very/fairly satisfied
- There were higher levels of satisfaction⁵ with
 - childcare quality 90.5% (86.6%)
 - location 87.2% (81.9%)
 - opening hours 86.4% (75.6%)
 - the way children's individual needs were met 85.0% (77.3%)
 - childcare opening hours 84.6% (75.6%)
 - transparency in fees, charges and invoicing 76.9%⁶
- Where there were lower levels of satisfaction, these had improved since 2018, apart from childcare affordability
 - childcare choice 57.7% (51.0%)
 - flexibility 55.9% (46.8%)
 - affordability 39.5% (49.4%)
- The majority of those using childcare found it easy to find 62.1% (63.2%)
- Most of those using childcare did so because they went to work 89.2% (86.3%)

¹ 90% in Brighton & Hove compared with 72% in England (DfE Early Years Census 2022)

² 84% in 2018 (DfE Early Years Census 2018)

³ The fall in England has been from 94% in 2018 to 92% in 2022 (DfE Early Years Census 2022)

⁴ Figures in brackets are from the 2018 CSA

⁵ The figures are per cent of respondents very/fairly satisfied

⁶ This question was not asked in 2018

- The most commonly used type of childcare was a day nursery 64% (67.1%) followed by family and friends (other than partner) 37.9% (39.5%)
- Certain groups of respondents were less satisfied with childcare than others, including single parents, parents who had a child with SEND and parents who had a school-aged child
- There was a higher overall level of satisfaction with childcare for pre-school children 80.9% (82.7%),⁷ compared with childcare for school-age children 66.1% (62.7%)⁸
- Most of those not using childcare stated that their work fitted around school hours 36.6% or that they were at home to look after their children 35.4%. However 15.9% of respondents stated that it was because the cost was too expensive (down from half of respondents in 2018)
- Of respondents making comments about childcare, 56% (38%) noted the high cost of childcare and the impact on work and family life

1.2 Childcare quality

- Childcare quality, based on Ofsted inspection judgements,⁹ is lower than England as a whole and the South East. This is a change from 2018 when quality was higher.
- Currently¹⁰ 95% of early years providers are judged by Ofsted to be outstanding/good, compared with 96% in England and 97% in the South East. However, in Brighton & Hove 23% of early years settings are outstanding, compared with 15% in England and 16% in the South East.
- Quality remains high in the council's family hub nurseries which are all judged good or outstanding by Ofsted and are mainly located in the city's more disadvantaged areas, and take a large proportion of two year olds for EYFE

1.3 Childcare supply

- Since 2018 there has been an increase of 7.6% in the number of places for children under the age of five compared with a 0.9% reduction nationally. However, over the same time period there has been a 16.8% reduction in the number of early years providers (20.6% nationally) which indicates a move from smaller to larger providers.¹¹
- A fall in the number of young children in the city means that there are now fewer children per full day care place compared with 2018 with 3.1 children per place, compared with 3.4 in 2018
- The number of places in full day care settings has increased by 4.8% since 2018,¹² and there has also been an 7.6% increase in the number of places on the early years register.¹³
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of childminders, from 116 childminders in 2018 to 65 in 2023, a 44% decrease.

⁷ Per cent of respondents with a child up to the age of four very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall

⁸ Per cent of respondents with a child aged five to 11 very/fairly satisfied with childcare arrangements overall

⁹ Ofsted data to 31st August 2022

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Based on providers reporting their number of places

¹³ Ofsted data between March 2018 and August 2022

- There is high take-up of all EYFE by eligible two year olds at 90%, compared with 72% in England and 69% in the South East. Take up of EYFE by three and four year olds is 94% compared with 92% in England and 95% in the South East.¹⁴
- There has been an increase in the take-up of the extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare, from 42.7% of three and four year olds in autumn 2018 to 50.1% in spring 2023.
- Compared with 2018 more full day care settings offer early morning opening with 47.5% open before 8 am (41.9% in 2018), but fewer opening after 6 pm (22.5% in 2022, compared with 25.7% in 2018).
- There are no full day care providers open after 7 pm in the evening or at weekends. However, of the childminders responding to the survey six stated that they provided care on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday.
- The cost of all types of childcare continues to increase with the average price for full day care £65.51 per day, a 21.3% increase on 2018.
- The cost of childcare is higher in Brighton & Hove than in the South East and England as a whole.
- Full day care providers reported a large number of vacancies for children; however it is not clear whether they have sufficient staff in place to offer these to families.

1.4 Childcare sufficiency overall

There is city-wide provision of most childcare types. However, provision outside the hours of 8 am to 6 pm is limited, as is specialist provision for children with SEND. Childcare costs are high compared with England and South East averages and 48% of parents reported dissatisfaction with childcare affordability.

Information from the (former) Family Information Service (FIS) and the childcare brokerage officer is that parents contact them when they are having difficulty finding the childcare that they want in the place they prefer, particularly EYFE for children starting nursery/pre-school in the summer term. There are also cases where the Brighton & Hove Inclusion Services (BHISS) has had to support parents with a child with SEND to consider a number of different providers before a suitable place can be found. Similarly the Ethnic Minority Achievement Services (EMAS) has had difficulty supporting families from particular ethnic groups to find provision which meets their needs.

EYFE for two year olds

Based upon the high take up of EYFE there appears to be sufficient provision for eligible two year olds. However, as noted above this does not mean that parents can always find nursery/preschool at the time they require in the location they want. Further analysis including surveying childcare providers will need to be carried out to determine whether there will be sufficient provision when EYFE is extended to children from nine months old.

EYFE for three and four year olds

Based upon the high take up of EYFE by three and four year olds there appears to be sufficient provision. However 22% of parents reported difficulty in finding EYFE, and 31% stated that they had to pay for additional hours in order to take up the free ones.¹⁵ There is

¹⁴ DfE 2022 early years census

¹⁵ However a reduction from 44% per cent in 2018

also a lower take-up of the full entitlement to EYFE by three year olds compared with England as a whole.

Early years childcare outside EYFE

There is a wide-range of early years childcare of differing types across all areas of the city, with an increase in the number of full day care places since 2018, with both full day care and sessional providers reporting vacancies.¹⁶ There has also been a reduction in the number of children per childcare place because of an increase in the number of places overall and a fall in the number of young children. However, there has been a 44% fall in the number of childminders since 2018.

Childcare before and after school

Most primary schools offer breakfast clubs¹⁷ and after-school provision both on-site and through a pick-up service. 55% of after-school clubs reported that they had vacancies. However, if an after-school club serving a child's school is full there may not be an alternative for parents because of the low number of childminders.

Childcare during the school holidays

There has been an increase in the number of summer holiday play schemes operating in the city since 2018.¹⁸ However, there was lower satisfaction by parents whose childcare included a holiday playscheme compared with those using other childcare types.

Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Additional support and inclusion funding supports pre-school and school-age children to access mainstream childcare provision. There are cases where BHISS has had to support families to approach a number of early years settings before a place can be found which meets the child's needs. In addition there is only one specialist provider of inclusive childcare offering places for older children with SEND.

Childcare during a-typical hours (outside 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays)

Compared with 2018 more full day care providers and primary school breakfast clubs are open before 8 am, but there has been a reduction in the percentage of full day care providers open after 6 pm, and all after school clubs close by 6 pm, meaning that there is very limited provision (other than that offered by childminders and at home childcarers) during a-typical hours.

Flexible childcare

There is limited early years flexible childcare for parents working different hours each week, with 14% of early years providers reporting that they offered this.

1.5 Plans for childcare

- Publicise CSA findings parents and childcare providers, so that parents have an understanding of local provision and childcare providers can develop their provision to meet local needs.

¹⁶ 81% of full day care and 69% sessional care providers reported vacancies

¹⁷ 92% of primary schools offer breakfast clubs

¹⁸ From 25 in 2018 to 30 in 2023

- Support early years providers to review their business and operating models, as resources allow, to ensure that with the anticipated increase in funding,¹⁹ standalone Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) provision is available as widely as possible, including for the extended childcare support offer.
- Survey early years providers to understand their capacity to increase provision from April 2024 to deliver the extended childcare support offer, including support for childcare in schools.
- Investigate further the reasons for the lower take up of the full EYFE in Brighton & Hove compared with South East and England.
- Put in place further support for providers with staff recruitment and retention once DfE plans are known.
- Continue to support the recruitment and retention of high quality childminders, and encourage them to offer EYFE, and childcare at a-typical hours.
- Family Hubs to develop support through their direct service and the digital family hub to ensure that parents are able to take up their full EYFE, including the extended childcare support offer, and find childcare which meets their needs, as well as access government support with childcare costs.
- The increased funding rates for providers for additional support and inclusion²⁰ for children with SEND are monitored to see whether these result in improved parental satisfaction.

¹⁹ For example for two year olds from an average of £6.00 per hour in April 2023 to an average of £8.00 per hour from September 2023

²⁰ See Section 10.13

2. National Context

The most recent development in childcare policy is the proposed change to the early years free entitlement (EYFE) offer, announced in the spring 2023 budget on 15th March 2023. The focus is on enabling parents to start work or increase their hours of work through support with childcare costs. The proposals will significantly increase the offer to parents as follows:

Date	New Offer
April 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of two year olds
September 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of nine months plus
September 2025	30 hours of EYFE for all working parents of children from nine months to primary school
September 2026	All schools to offer 8 am to 6 pm wraparound care on their own or in partnership

In addition Universal Credit reforms will pay childcare support up front when parents move into work or increase their hours and increase the monthly re-imbusement cap.

Investment in the existing entitlements will increase national funding rates.²¹

Childminder grants will be introduced to attract people to childminding, with £1,200 for those who register with a childminder agency and £600 for those who register with Ofsted.

The government will invest £289m over two academic years from September 2023 to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision.

At the time of writing local authorities were awaiting further details on these proposals.

Since the last CSA the [Holiday Activities and Food programme](#) has been rolled out nationally. This provides free enriching activities in the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays to children aged four to 16 in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. As a four hours a day, four days a week offer HAF is not intended as childcare, and so is not included in this assessment.

The DfE has introduced an [Early Years Education Recovery Programme](#) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Brighton & Hove there has been very good early years provider engagement with the Early Years Professional Development Programme Phase 3, Experts and Mentors and the Level 3 Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) accredited training.

²¹ For example for two year olds from an average of £6.00 per hour in April 2023 to an average of £8.00 per hour from September 2023

3. Local Context

Early Years and Childcare, which is part of Family Hubs in the Families, Children and Learning directorate, has an Early Years Strategic Action Plan 2022 which details how the city is meeting its duty to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities, and ensure that there is sufficient high-quality early years provision and childcare. The strategy sets priorities for the future, focussing on the most disadvantaged children and families.

3.1 Support for childcare providers

This includes

- Business support for new childcare providers and those requesting guidance regarding sustainability
- A workforce development training programme including online and face to face courses and elearning²²
- Support and challenge regarding childcare quality for new childcare providers and those with an Ofsted inspection judgement of less than good
- Wide-ranging information, advice and guidance on current developments in early years, including termly network meetings, email bulletins, dedicated web pages and social media accounts
- Advice on safeguarding policy and practice
- Support for out of school childcare providers and schools to set up and run breakfast and after-school clubs and holiday playschemes
- An early years jobs advertising and recruitment guidance service, currently free to providers
- Information and support for those wanting to become a childminder
- Support and information for early years providers wishing to offer EYFE to parents, as well as guidance on claiming funding from the local authority
- Funding for additional support to enable providers to include pre-school and school-age children with SEND
- Support from the Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) with an allocated specialist teacher enabling early years settings to fulfil the requirements of the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 and the Equality Act 2010
- Support from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) team of specialist teachers, bilingual assistants and home school liaison officers for children who have English as an additional language including the city's most vulnerable and disadvantaged black and minority ethnic children. This includes training early years providers to support children with EAL and to achieve and demonstrate good equalities and inclusive practice

3.2 Childcare support for parents

This includes

- Support from Family Hubs providing information about childcare, early education and services for families (and those supporting them) on its website, through social media and by phone. Plans are in place to incorporate this into the digital family hub
- Information and support to parents regarding EYFE, ensuring that they are receiving it in accordance with the council's terms and conditions

²² A charge is made for most training courses

- Five council-run full day care nurseries and one SEND specialist nursery as part of the city's Family Hubs offer

4. Childcare Definitions

After-school activity

Provision for school-age children at a specific activity for example sport, art or drama. Parents were asked about use of after-school activities in the parent survey but this is not counted as childcare in this report.

After school club

Provision for school-age children operating outside the school day, run by maintained primary schools and private and voluntary sector providers. Some full day care providers offer after-school places, often for younger school-age children, through a pick-up service from local schools.

Breakfast club

Provision for children before school starts, usually on a school site and run by the school.

Childminder

Those taking care of children in a home that is not the child's own (usually their own) with up to two other people. Most childminders care for children under the age of five, frequently providing care for children under two, but many also care for school-age children.

Early years free entitlement (EYFE)

Two year olds from families in receipt of certain benefits/low income and all three and four year olds can get 15 hours free early education a year for 30 weeks a year (570 hours all year round) from the term after their second/third birthday, the early years free entitlement (EYFE). This offer is also for two year old children who are looked after by the local authority, in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or have an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order. Three and four year olds of working parents are entitled to 1,140 hours a year. Providers offer EYFE in Brighton & Hove in accordance with a [provider agreement](#) and are audited annually to ensure compliance.

Full day care

Care for children aged from birth to five open for at least eight hours a day, mostly all year round.

Holiday playscheme

Provision for school-age children in all or some of the school holidays. Most playschemes are run by private, voluntary and independent providers, though some are run by schools.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Run in the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays the [Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#) provides enriching and fun activities free of charge for children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). HAF is not included in the CSA as it is not primarily intended as childcare, though it was included in the parent survey.

Maintained nursery school/class

Standalone nursery schools maintained by the local authority, and nursery classes which are part of maintained infant or primary schools.

Sessional care

Care for children aged two to five open fewer than eight hours a day, most open term-time only. Sessional care includes provision of early education by maintained schools and nurseries, as well as independent schools.

5. Local Demography and Employment

There are 276,334 people living in Brighton & Hove of which 38,808 are aged under 15. This is 14% per cent of the population, lower than the England average of 17.4%.²³

5.1 Child population by age band

The percentage of young people in the city is slightly lower than the England average.

Area	Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	0 to 19 years total
Brighton & Hove	0.8	3.4	4.7	5.1	6.0	20.1
England	1.0	4.4	5.9	6.0	5.7	23.1

The number of live births per year in the city in 2021 was 2,351, lower than 2,800 reported in the 2018 CSA.

5.2 Population change children aged under five since 2018 by ward²⁴

There has been a reduction in the number of children under five in the city since 2018.

Ward	2020	2018	Per cent change
Brunswick & Adelaide	316	377	-16.2
Central Hove	349	388	-10.1
East Brighton	726	736	-1.4
Goldsmid	753	842	-10.6
Hangleton & Knoll	886	894	-0.9
Hanover & Elm Grove	777	808	-3.8
Hollingdean & Stanmer	694	778	-10.8
Hove Park	568	627	-9.4
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	717	736	-2.6
North Portslade	621	668	-7.0
Patcham	806	851	-5.3
Preston Park	662	731	-9.4
Queen's Park	613	626	-2.1
Regency	305	329	-7.3
Rottingdean Coastal	542	574	-5.6
St. Peter's & North Laine	688	675	1.9
South Portslade	635	610	4.1
Westbourne	509	609	-16.4
Wish	587	619	-5.2
Withdean	693	734	-5.6
Woodingdean	540	556	-2.9
City-wide	12,987	13,768	-5.7

²³ ONS mid-2021 population estimate

²⁴ ONS population estimates

78.1% per cent of the city's residents are economically active, which is higher than the economic activity rate in England (75.7%) and the South East (78%).²⁵

There is a smaller percentage of children living in workless households in Brighton & Hove (6%) compared with England as a whole (9.9%).²⁶

In 2021, 3.1% of residents identified their ethnic group within the Other category (Arab or Any other ethnic group), up from 1.5% in 2011. The 1.7 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

Across the South East, the percentage of people from the Other ethnic groups (Arab or Any other ethnic group) increased from 0.6% to 1.5%, while across England the percentage increased from 1.0% to 2.2%.

In 2021, 85.4% of people identified their ethnic group within the White category (compared with 89.1% in 2011), while 4.8% identified their ethnic group within the Mixed or Multiple category (compared with 3.8% the previous decade).

The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh category increased from 4.1% in 2011 to 4.8% in 2021.²⁷

²⁵ ONS regional labour market January 2023

²⁶ ONS labour supply 2021

²⁷ ONS 2021 census

6. Childcare Demand

6.1 Parent survey main findings

In general parents are satisfied with childcare particularly its quality, and overall satisfaction has increased since 2018.

- 74.4% of respondents to the survey were very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall
- 62.1% of respondents reported childcare very/fairly easy to find
- 90.5% of respondents were very/fairly satisfied with childcare quality

Main concerns were

- The high cost of childcare and the impact of this on work and family life
- The lack of flexibility in childcare provision
- A lack of choice of childcare

6.2 Parent survey method

Parent survey data was collected online through the council's consultation portal open between 14th December 2022 and 29th January 2023.

The survey was shared with all childcare providers (early years and out of school), schools, and a wide range of community groups and projects.

Amaze²⁸ also shared the survey through its Compass database.²⁹ The survey was frequently shared through social media (Facebook and Twitter) including being regularly re-tweeted by the council.

6.3 Responses to the survey

482 people completed the survey (450 in 2018).

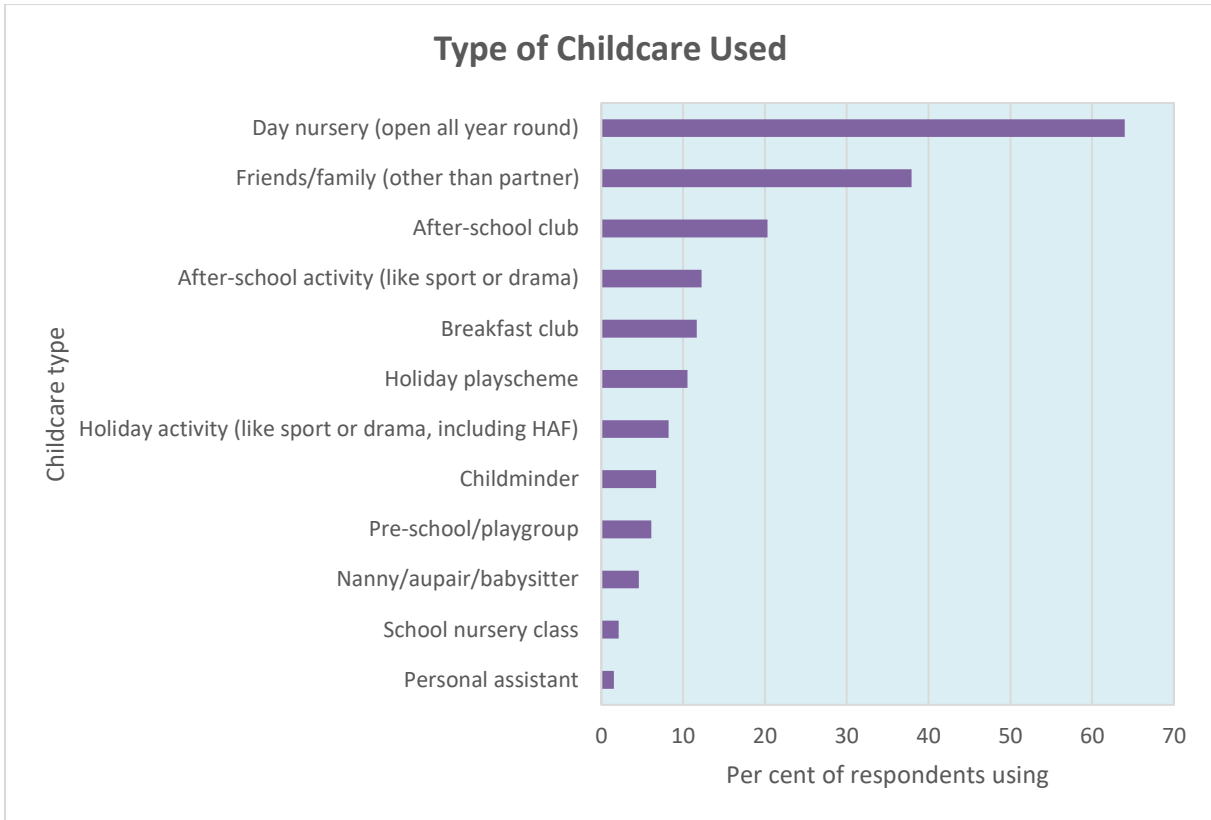
6.4 Type of childcare used

83.2% of respondents (401 people) used childcare. Respondents were asked about their experience of childcare for their two youngest children. Of these, 71.5% were under the age of five, and 24.1% aged five to 11.

The most commonly used type of childcare was a day nursery (64%) followed by friends and family (37.9%) which is consistent with the age of children in the survey.

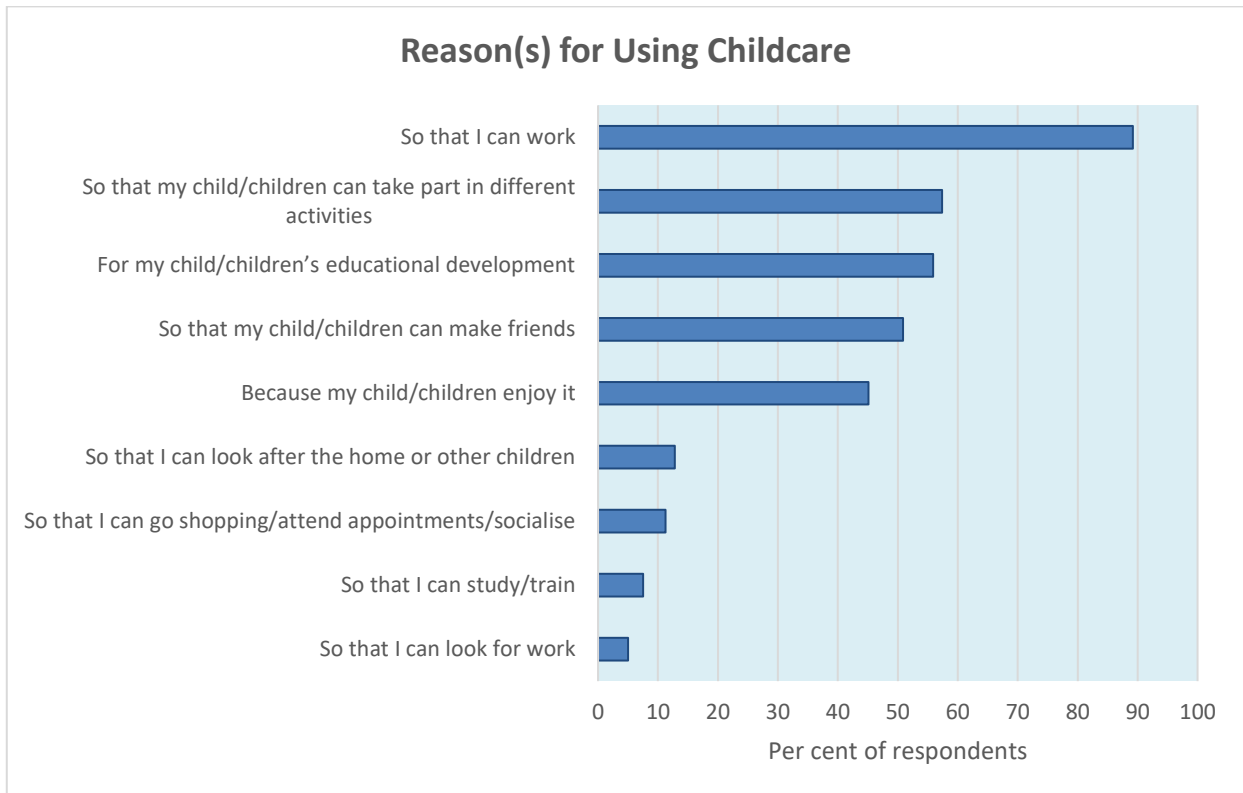
²⁸ Amaze is a charity that gives information, advice and support to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Brighton & Hove and Sussex

²⁹ The statutory disability register for Brighton & Hove City Council



6.5 Reasons for using childcare

89.2% of those responding said that they used childcare because they worked.



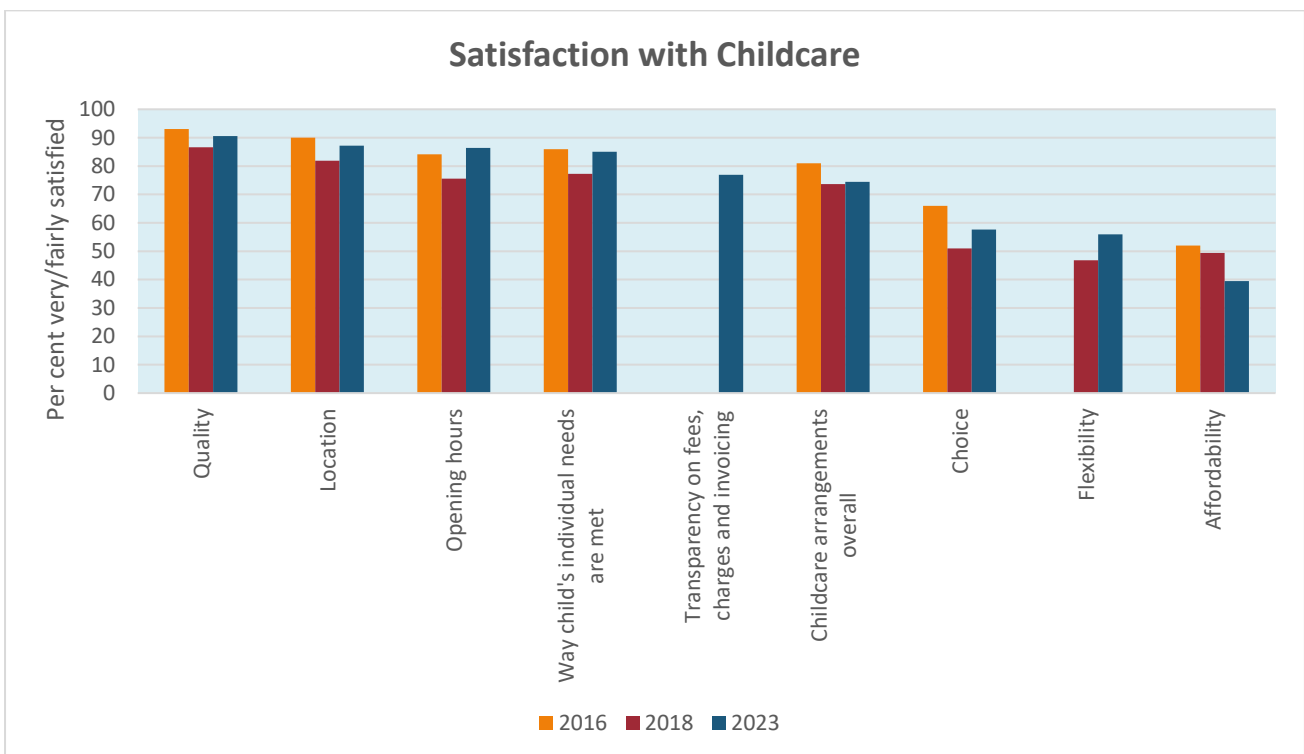
6.6 Ease of finding childcare

62.1% of respondents stated that it was very/fairly easy to find childcare, down from 63.2% in 2018.

6.7 Overall satisfaction with childcare

In general respondents were satisfied with childcare, with 74.4% very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall (up from 73.6% in 2018). The highest level of satisfaction was with childcare quality (90.5% very/fairly satisfied), and the lowest with childcare affordability (39.5% very/fairly satisfied).

Satisfaction with childcare has mostly improved since 2018, with the exception of childcare affordability which has gone down by 9.9 percentage points.



6.8 Satisfaction with childcare by specific groups

Some groups found it easier to find childcare and were more satisfied than others. In particular parents of a child or children with SEND reported it harder to find childcare and were less satisfied than those with a child or children without SEND.

6.8.1 Respondents with a child or children with SEND

Respondents with a child or children with SEND were less likely to report it very/fairly easy to find childcare compared with those with a child or children without SEND (33.9% compared with 65.8%). However for children with SEND this is a two percentage points increase on 2018, and the gap has reduced by 5.6 percentage points compared with 2018.

In terms of satisfaction overall respondents with a child or children with SEND were less satisfied than those without (50.9% very/fairly satisfied compared with 77.6%).

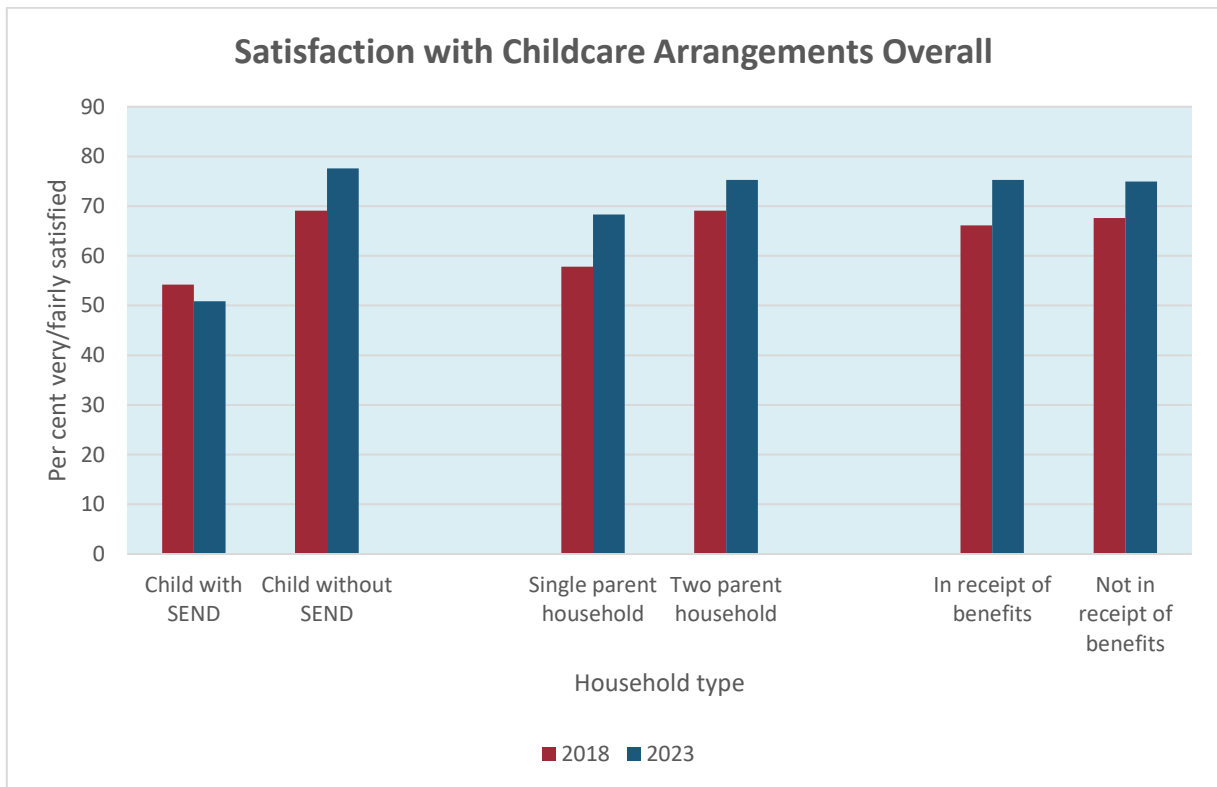
6.8.2 Respondents who were single parents

Single parents were less satisfied than two parent households (68.3% very/fairly satisfied compared with 75.3%) but the gap in satisfaction has decreased by 4.3 percentage points since 2018. However, there was not a significant difference in ease of finding childcare (60% of single parents stated that it was very/fairly easy to find childcare, compared with 62.4% of two parent households). This is a difference from 2018 when there was a gap of 25.4 percentage points.

6.8.3 Respondents in receipt of benefits³⁰

58.3% of those on benefits reported it very/fairly easy to find childcare, compared with 62.9% of respondents not on benefits, a difference of 4.6 percentage points.

However, those in receipt of benefits were slightly more satisfied with childcare overall (75.2% very/fairly satisfied) compared with those not in receipt of benefits (74.9% very/fairly satisfied).



6.8.4 Satisfaction with childcare by age of child

Respondents reported it harder to find childcare for older children, with 66.7% cent of respondents finding it very/fairly easy to find childcare for a child under five (down from 70.2% in 2018), compared with 52.9% of respondents with a child aged five to 11 (down from 58% in 2018). 53.8% of parents of children aged 12 to 14³¹ found it very/fairly easy to find childcare.

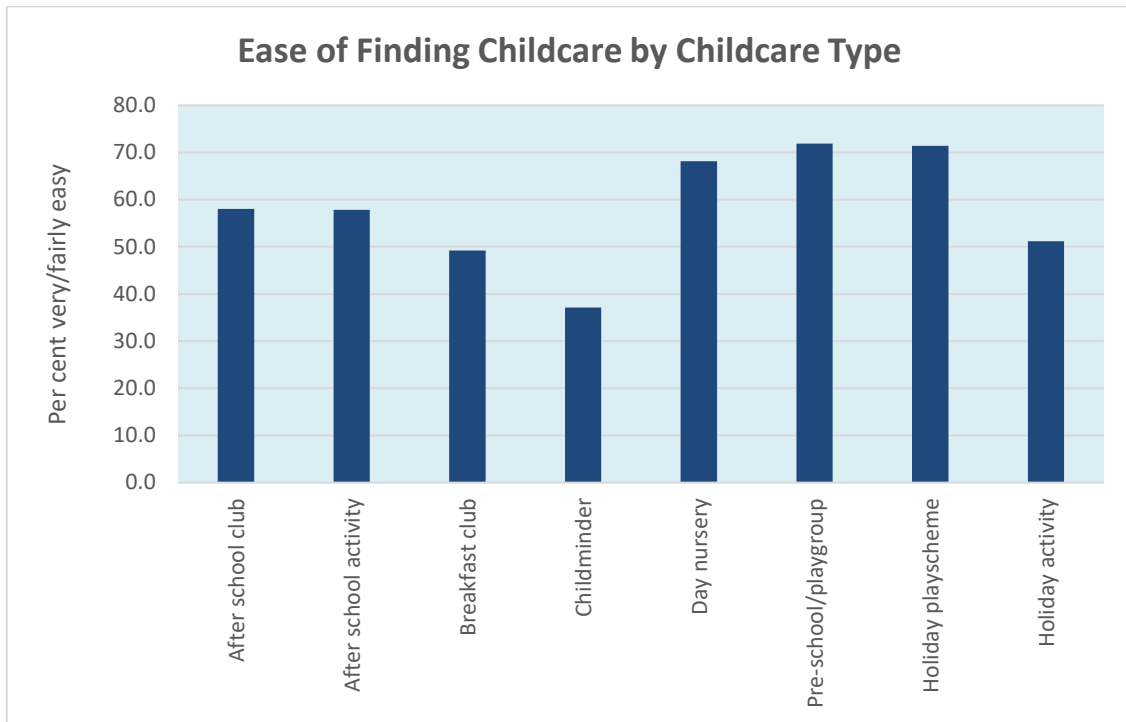
³⁰ Benefits include universal credit, income support, job seekers' allowance, working tax credit, employment and support allowance

³¹ There were 49 responses from parents with a child in this age range

Those with younger children in childcare³² were more satisfied with childcare overall with 80.9% very/fairly satisfied, compared with 66.1% very/fairly satisfied where the child was aged five to 11, and 72.2% for children aged 12 to 14.

6.8.5 Ease of finding childcare by childcare type³³

Those using day nurseries and pre-school/playgroups and holiday playschemes reported it easier to find childcare than those using other childcare types.



6.8.6 Satisfaction by childcare type³⁴

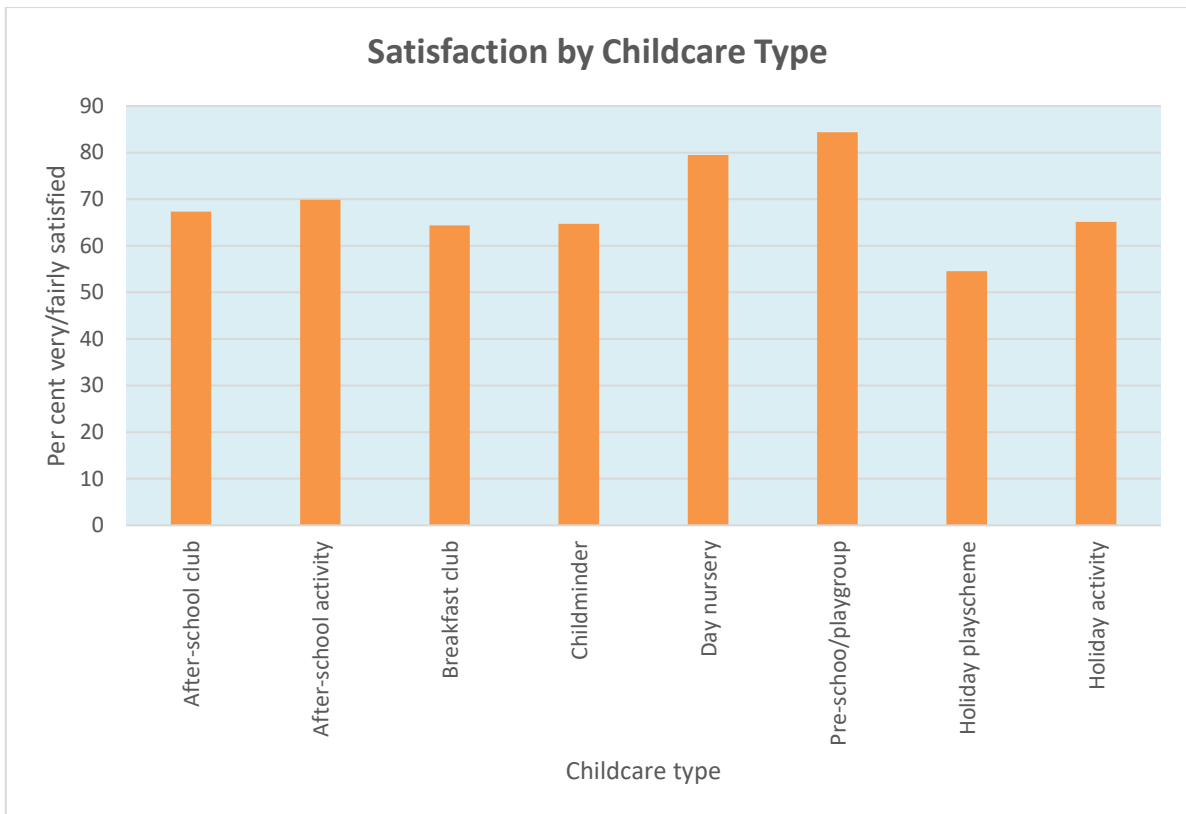
There was higher satisfaction with childcare for younger children compared with that for older children.³⁵ 84.4% of those whose childcare included a pre-school/playgroup were very/fairly satisfied with their childcare arrangements overall, as were 79.5% of those whose childcare included a day nursery, compared with 54.5% of those whose childcare included a holiday playscheme.

³² Children under the age of five

³³ Respondents may have been using more than one childcare type and so responses may not indicate that an individual type was hard to find

³⁴ Most respondents, particularly those with school-aged children, used more than one childcare type, but were asked for their overall satisfaction with childcare, and so differing satisfaction by each separate childcare type was not measured

³⁵ Note that a childminder can be for a child of any age



6.9 Childcare at a different time

42% of respondents using childcare wanted to be able to use it at a different time

- 44.7% wanted childcare during the school holidays
- 39.3% wanted childcare between 7 am and 8 am

Respondents with younger children in childcare (up to the age of four) wanted childcare early in the morning (39.5% wanting it between 7 am and 8 am), and 22.7% wanted it after 6 pm. In addition 39.5% wanted childcare on Saturdays and 22.7% wanted it on Sundays. Of those with a child aged five to 11 and using childcare 59.7% per cent of respondents wanted childcare during the school holidays and 43.3% wanted it between 7 am and 8 am.

6.10 Childcare information

- 56.9% of respondents found childcare information from friends and family
- 53.7% used the internet

6.11 Help with childcare costs

76.3% of respondents using childcare received some help with childcare costs (an increase from 60% in 2018).

- 58.8% received tax free childcare
- 31.7% received the early years free entitlement (EYFE)
- 15.7% received help with childcare costs through Universal Credit

6.12 Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) for two, three and four year olds

Respondents were asked about EYFE for two, three and four year olds. 31 respondents received EYFE for their two year old, 59 respondents received 15 hours EYFE for their three/four year old and 98 respondents received 30 hours EYFE for their three/four year old.

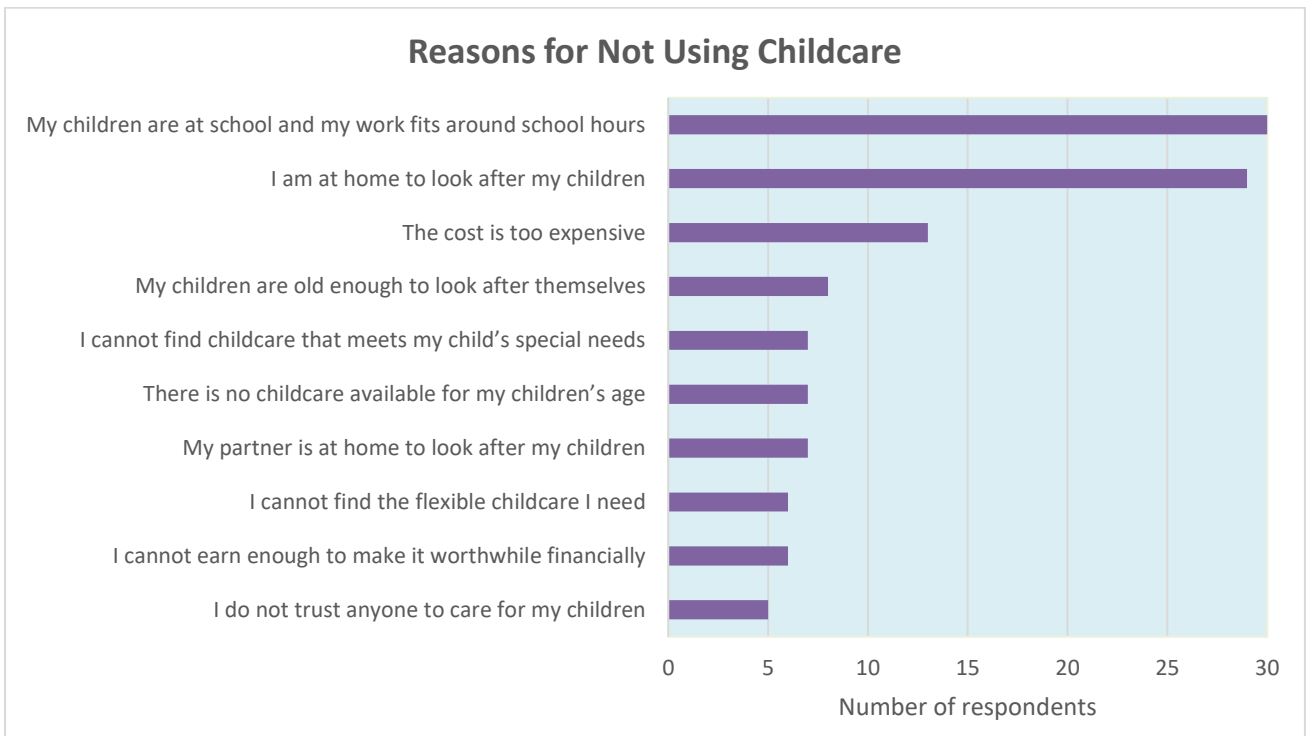
6.12.1 Satisfaction with EYFE

There was generally satisfaction with EYFE, though most levels had reduced since 2018.

- 62.5% of respondents were happy³⁶ with the EYFE session times they had been offered (down from 73.6% in 2018)
- 60.2% said it was easy for them to find free childcare (down from 70.2% in 2018)
- 65.3% were happy³⁷ with the choice of providers of free childcare (up from 64.6% in 2018)
- 75.8% paid for hours in addition to the free ones (up from 69.9% in 2018), and 74.4% said that this was because they needed more hours in order to work or train (66.2% in 2018)
- 31.4% per cent stated that this was because the way that their childcare provider, offered the sessions meant that they needed to purchase additional hours in order to get the free ones (down from 43.7% in 2018)

6.13 Respondents not using childcare

81 respondents did not use childcare, in most cases this was because their child was at school and work fitted around school hours.

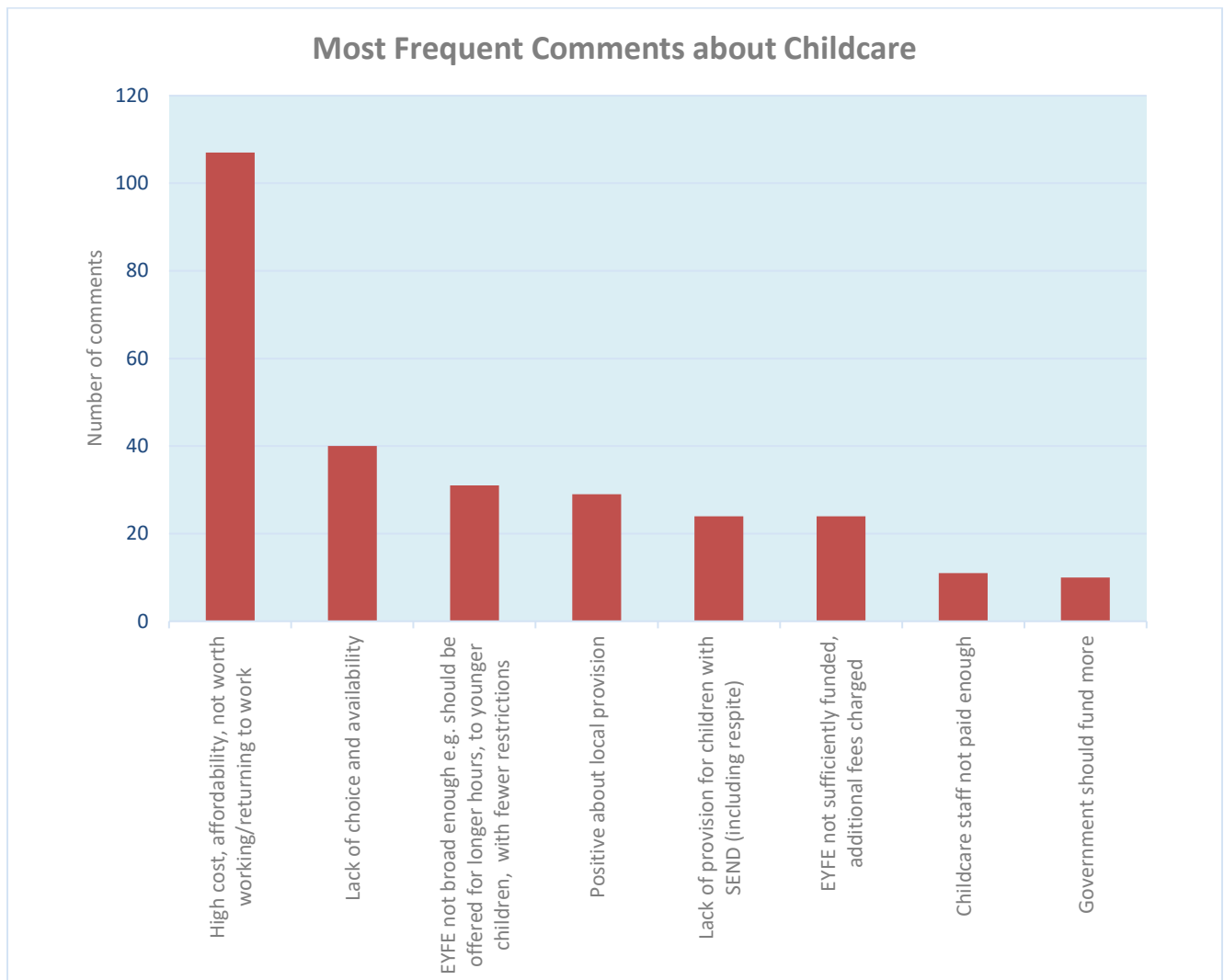


³⁶ Respondents stating that they strongly agreed or tended to agree

³⁷ Ibid

6.14 Comments about childcare

191 respondents made comments about childcare.



7. Childcare Supply

7.1 Childcare supply main findings

In general there is a buoyant childcare market in Brighton & Hove with a good choice of provision for children up to the end of primary school, and a high take-up of free entitlements. Early years providers of full day care reported a large number of vacancies. Childcare quality is also high. However

- The number of childminders continues to fall
- Childcare costs remain high and are higher than South East and England averages
- There is more early years provision in some areas of the city than others
- There is limited specialist provision for older children with SEND³⁸

7.2 Childcare supply method

Childcare supply data was collected from childcare providers through online surveys and follow up telephone calls between November 2022 and April 2023. Supply data relates to Ofsted-registered childcare, as well as childcare provided by schools. It does not include after-school activities, extended days offered by independent schools for activities such as sports, the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, or informal childcare such as that provided by family and friends. At home childcarers on the voluntary Ofsted register were not surveyed.

A small number of group-based providers did not supply information and in these cases an assessment was made based on information from Ofsted and from providers' websites. There was a lower response from childminders.

Data for breakfast and after-school club provision relates to that for primary school age children only.

The provider surveys were carried out prior to the government announcement of the extended childcare support offer and so questions regarding capacity to expand were not included.

7.3 Early years free entitlements – take up

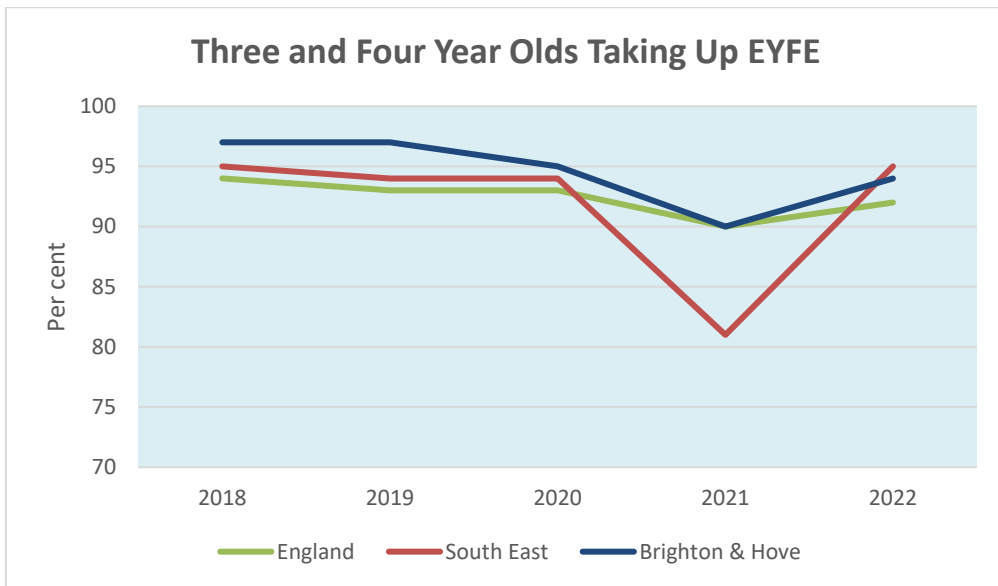
All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free early learning (the early years free entitlement, EYFE) for 38 weeks a year (or 570 hours if the entitlement is taken all year round). This universal entitlement starts from the term after the child's third birthday. Since September 2017 three and four year olds of working parents can have an extended entitlement of an additional 15 hours a week provided they satisfy eligibility criteria. This is also known as "30 hours free childcare". In addition two year olds from low income households, who are disabled, in the care of the local authority or adopted from care are also eligible for 15 hours a week of EYFE from the term after their second birthday.³⁹

³⁸ Only one specialist provider for older children with SEND, operating after-school clubs from two sites. Support for children with SEND to attend mainstream provision is through the childcare inclusion grant

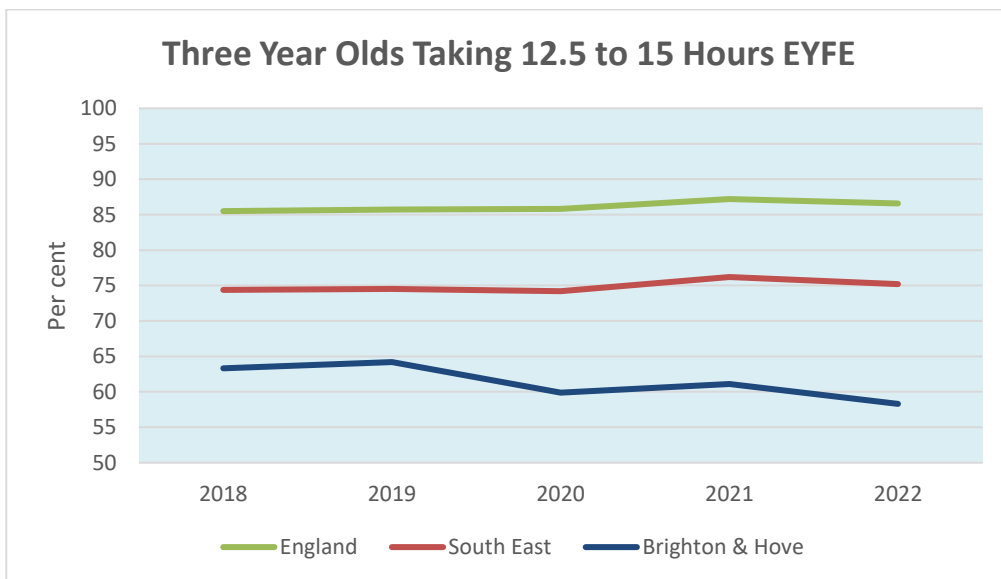
³⁹ Full criteria in [Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities, April 2023](#)

7.4 Three and four year olds taking up universal EYFE

Take-up of EYFE by three and four year olds in Brighton & Hove is higher than England but one percentage point lower than in the South East.⁴⁰



There is a lower percentage of three year olds taking up 12.5 to 15 hours of EYFE⁴¹ compared with the South East and England.

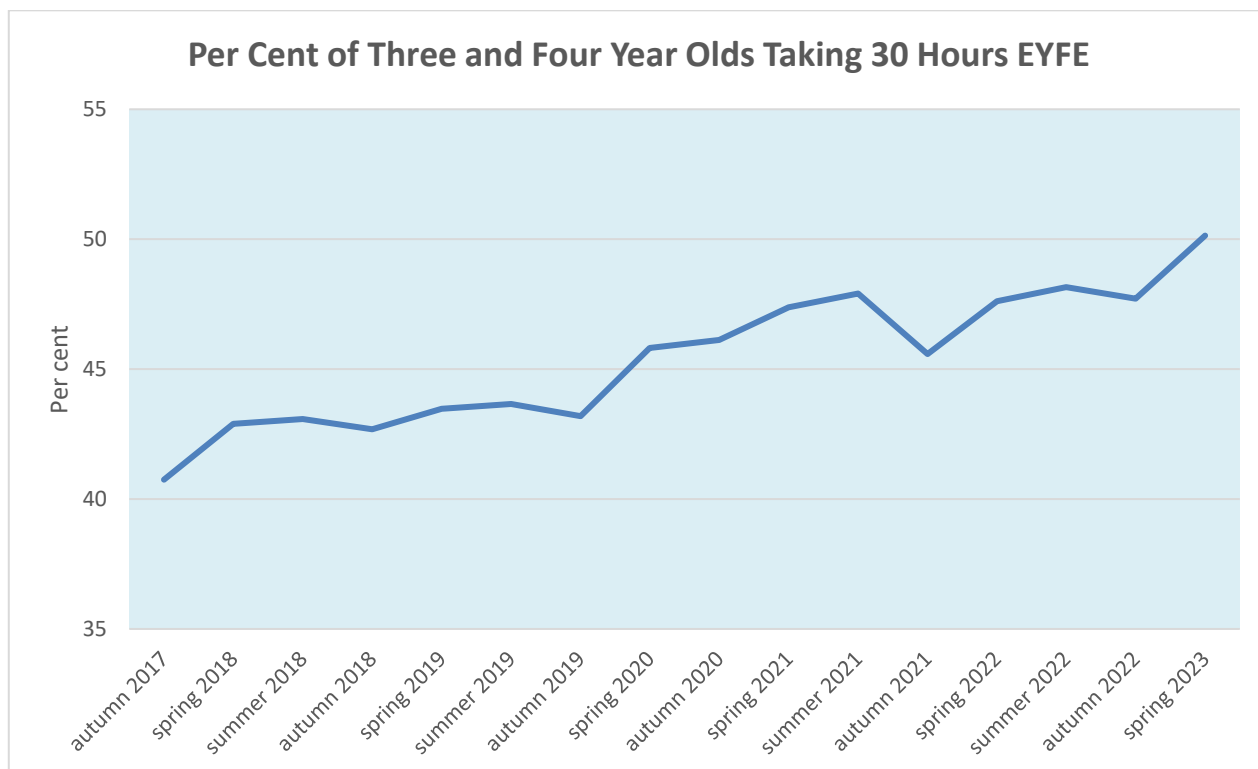


⁴⁰ DfE early years census January 2022

⁴¹ The full entitlement is 15 hours. DfE census data bands take up by hours and the highest band is 12.5 to 15 hours which is a proxy for the full entitlement

7.5 Three and four year olds taking extended EYFE

The percentage of three and four year olds accessing their universal entitlement who also access their extended entitlement has increased since the scheme was introduced in autumn 2017.⁴²



Take-up of the extended entitlement⁴³ differs by ward because of varying employment rates and data for spring 2023 shows Hanover & Elm Grove having the highest percentage of three and four year olds taking up this offer (66.1%), with the lowest in East Brighton (24.4%).

Ward	Per cent taking extended entitlement
Hanover & Elm Grove	66.1
Westbourne	65.4
South Portslade	59.2
North Portslade	57.3
Withdean	57.2
Woodingdean	57.0
Preston Park	55.2
Out of area	55.1
Wish	54.2

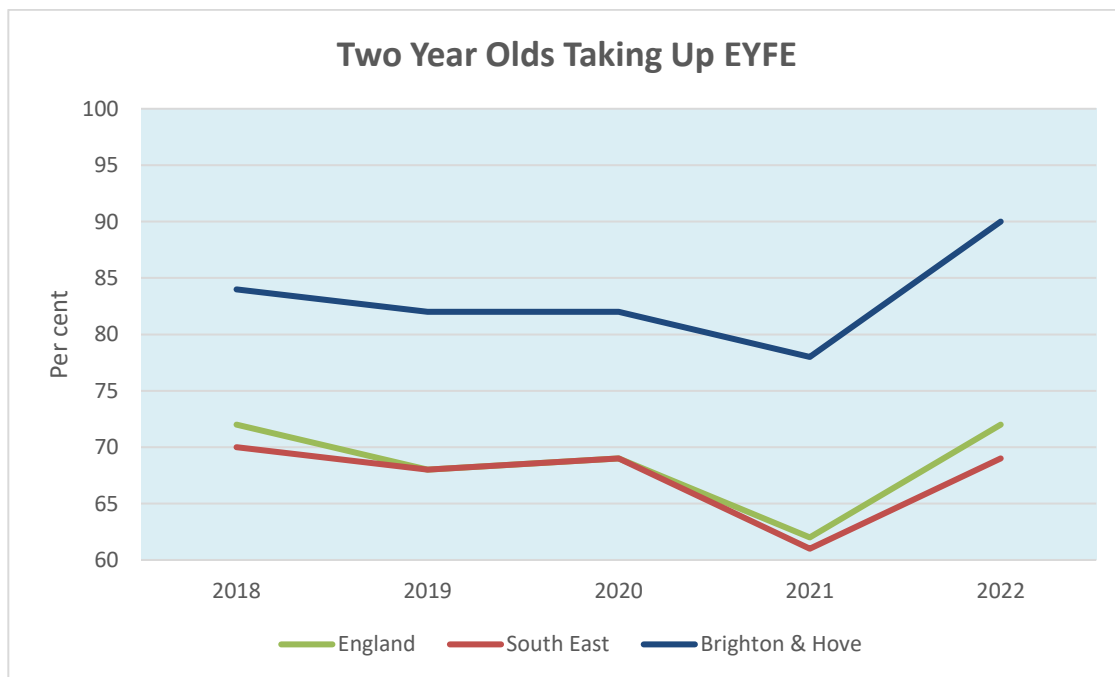
⁴² No data for summer 2020 because of the pandemic

⁴³ Working parents are eligible for the [extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare](#)

St. Peter's & North Laine	54.0
Patcham	51.7
Hollingdean & Stanmer	50.9
Central Hove	49.3
Hangleton & Knoll	48.1
Rottingdean Coastal	46.5
Goldsmid	42.9
Regency	40.6
Queen's Park	38.8
Hove Park	38.8
Brunswick & Adelaide	38.1
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	37.7
East Brighton	24.4
Total Brighton & Hove	50.1

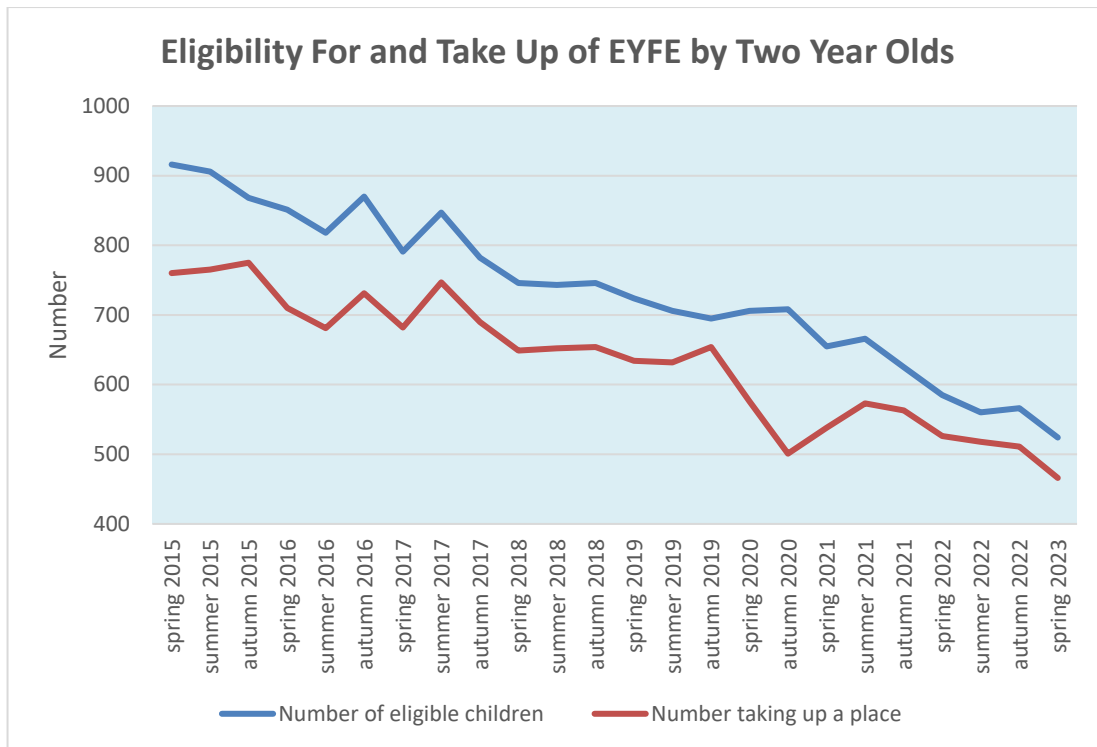
7.6 Two year olds taking up EYFE

The percentage of two year olds taking up EYFE in Brighton & Hove is higher than in the South East and England as a whole.⁴⁴



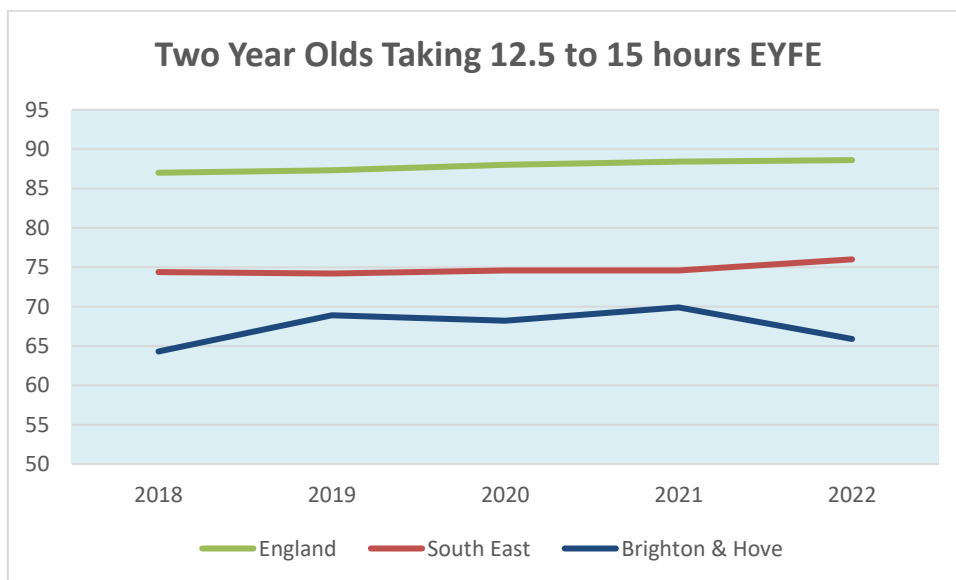
Between autumn 2014 (when entitlement to EYFE became statutory for two year olds from low-income households) and spring 2023, there has been a 55% drop in the number of eligible children. This is because the income threshold for eligibility has not increased from £16,190.

⁴⁴ DfE early years census January 2022



Children’s centre nurseries provided EYFE for 63 two year olds,⁴⁵ 13.5% of the total, while being only 6.3% of providers. Similarly maintained providers⁴⁶ provided for 7.9% of two year olds, but were only 3.1% of providers.⁴⁷

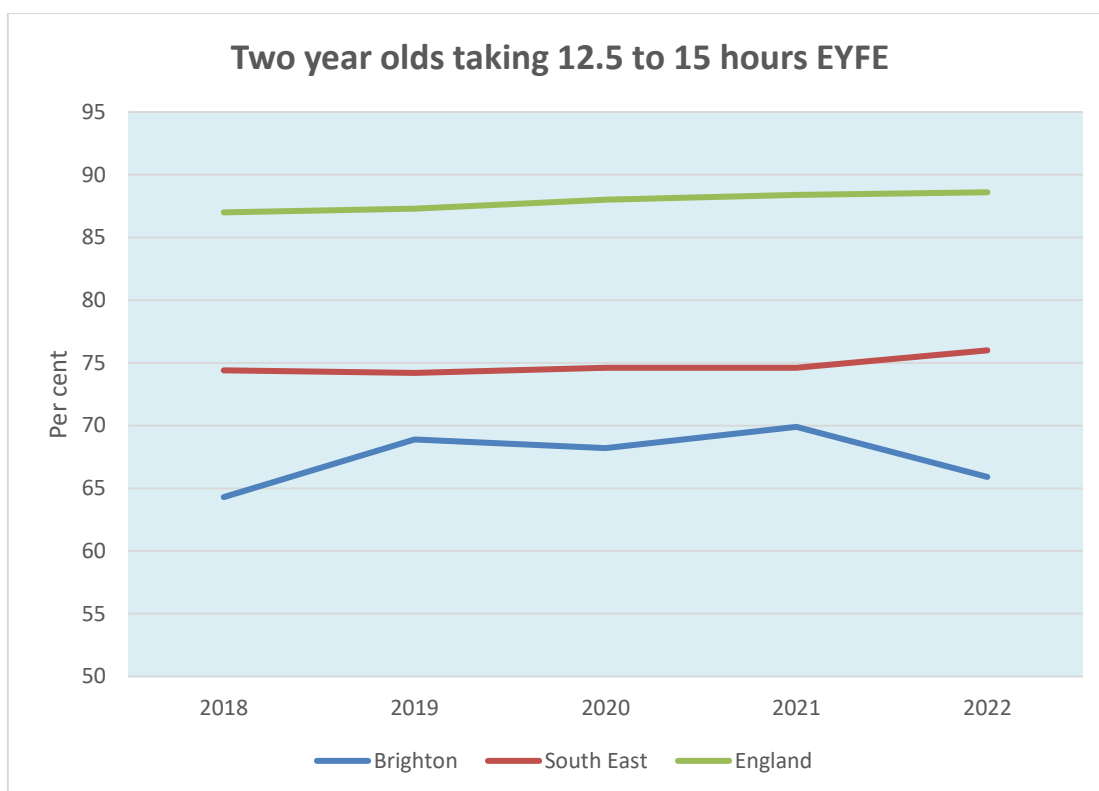
However, compared with the South East and England, a lower percentage of two year olds took up 12.5 to 15⁴⁸ hours of EYFE.



⁴⁵ Spring 2023

⁴⁶ Two nursery schools and one nursery class

⁴⁷ Spring 2023



7.7 Extension of Early Years Free Entitlements Starting in April 2024

As set out in Section 2 the government will extend the early years free entitlements as follows

Date	New Offer
April 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of two year olds
September 2024	15 hours of EYFE for working parents of nine months plus
September 2025	30 hours of EYFE for all working parents of children from nine months to primary school

At the time of writing guidance on projected demand has not been provided by the DfE. However, many parents of younger children are already working and using childcare, and therefore the change to the EYFE offer will replace parental fees with government funding, without a large increase in demand. The DfE have indicated that they anticipate a significant increase in demand from September 2025 with the extension from 15 to 30 hours. Further modelling of childcare sufficiency, including surveying childcare providers on their capacity to expand, will be done when information has been provided on projected demand.

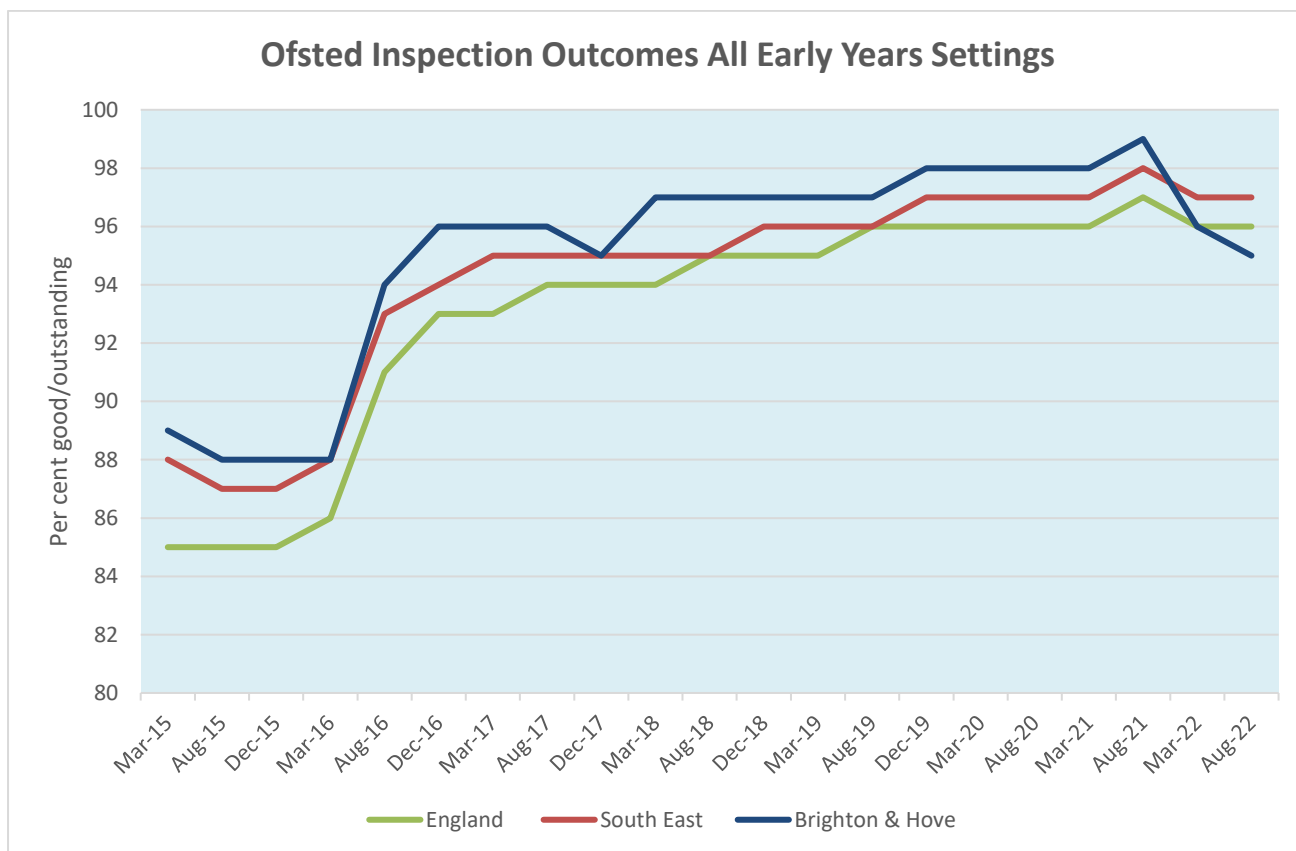
At present most childcare providers wrap paid for hours around EYFE hours and many limit their standalone offer, which means that supply and demand calculations based on take up of EYFE hours only are very approximate. Funding rates from the DfE to Brighton & Hove for EYFE have been historically low. For two year olds from April 2023 the funding rate is now above the England average, but remains below average for the South East. For three and four year olds it remains below the England and South East average. It may be that,

with the increase in funding rates for younger children, providers feel less need to limit standalone sessions.

It is anticipated that an increase places for babies (from nine months) may be needed, as well as support for providers to adapt their spaces to make them suitable; many sessional providers take children from two years because they do not have suitable spaces for babies. Support with developing suitable environments for babies, as well as staff training, will be a priority once funding for local authorities to carry out this work has been announced.

8. Early Years and Childcare Quality

Childcare quality, based upon Ofsted inspection judgements of outstanding/good, is now one percentage point below England.⁴⁹



8.1 Early years Ofsted inspection judgements

23% of early years providers in Brighton & Hove are currently judged outstanding, compared with 16% in the South East and 15% per cent in England as a whole.⁵⁰ However, 6% are judged requires improvement/inadequate, compared with 5% in the South East and 4% in England as a whole.

⁴⁹ At August 2022

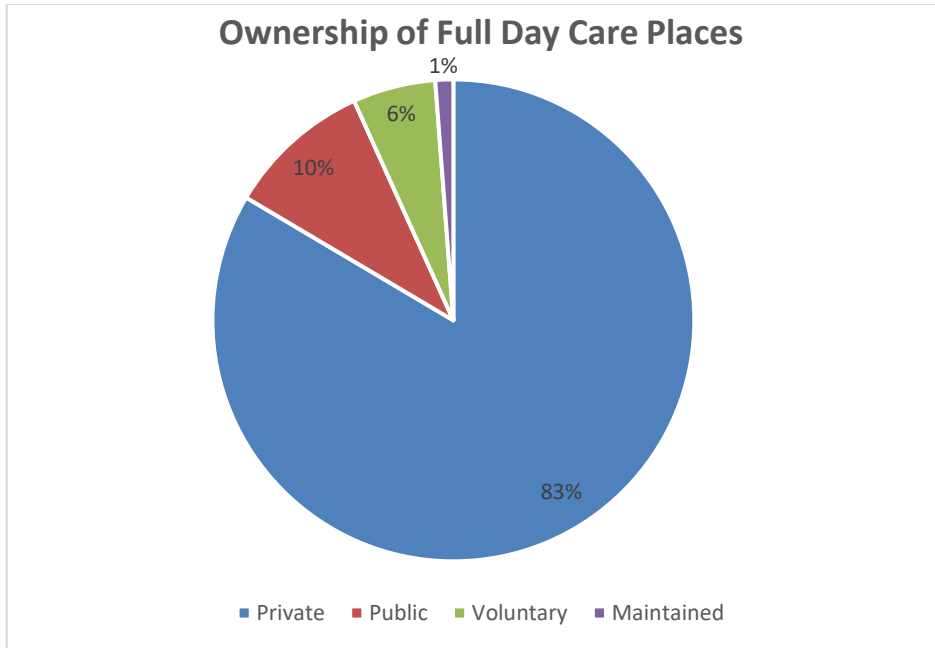
⁵⁰ Based on “overall effectiveness” of active early years registered providers at their last Ofsted inspection

9. Childcare Ownership

Data below is based on providers reporting their number of places, which may differ from that reported by Ofsted.

9.1 Ownership of Full Day Care Places

Most full day care places are in the private sector and this has not changed significantly since 2018 (81% in 2018).



Change in full day care places between 2018 and 2022

Full day care Type	2018		2022		Per cent change in number of places
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Private	2,979	81	3,470	84	15.2
Public ⁵¹	470	13	404	10	-15.1
Voluntary	212	6	231	6	8.6
Maintained ⁵²	34	1	50	1	38.1
Total	3,695	100	4,155	100	11.7

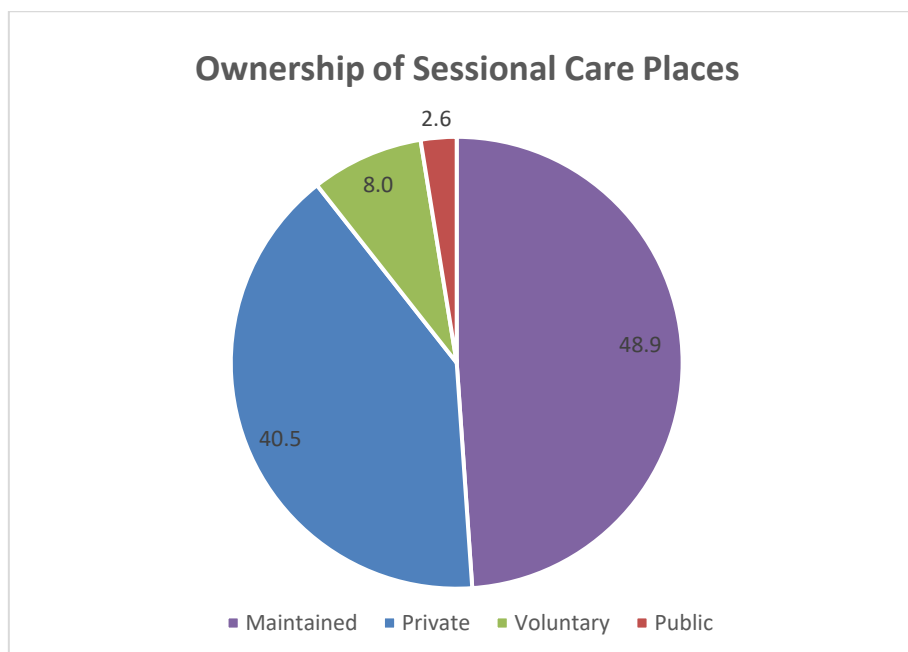
There has been an increase in the number of national chains operating in the city. In 2018 there was one national chain; there are now five.

⁵¹ Public provision is that run by health trusts and universities. Change in public provision is a result of the closure of One World, Brighton University's nursery (the last remaining university nursery in the city)

⁵² The increase in the number of full day care places in the maintained sector is a result of provision at Tarnerland nursery school being counted differently

9.2 Ownership of Sessional Care Places

There has been a reduction in the number of sessional care places in the voluntary sector since 2018, as a result of voluntary sector sessional groups closing.

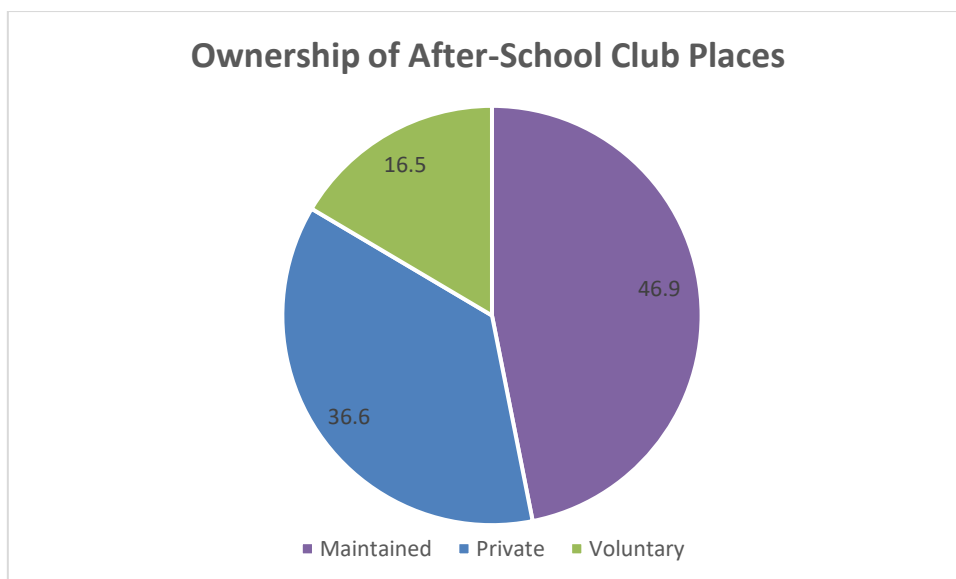


Change in sessional care places between 2018 and 2022

Sessional care Type	2018		2022		Per cent change
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Maintained	941	43.5	802	48.9	-14.8
Private	665	30.7	664	40.5	0.2
Voluntary	473	21.9	132	8.0	-72.1
Public	85	3.9	42	2.6	-50.6
Total	2,164	100	1,640	100	-24.2

9.3 Ownership of After-School Club Places

There has been movement in after-school club places with a reduction in those in the private sector and increase in school-run (maintained) provision.

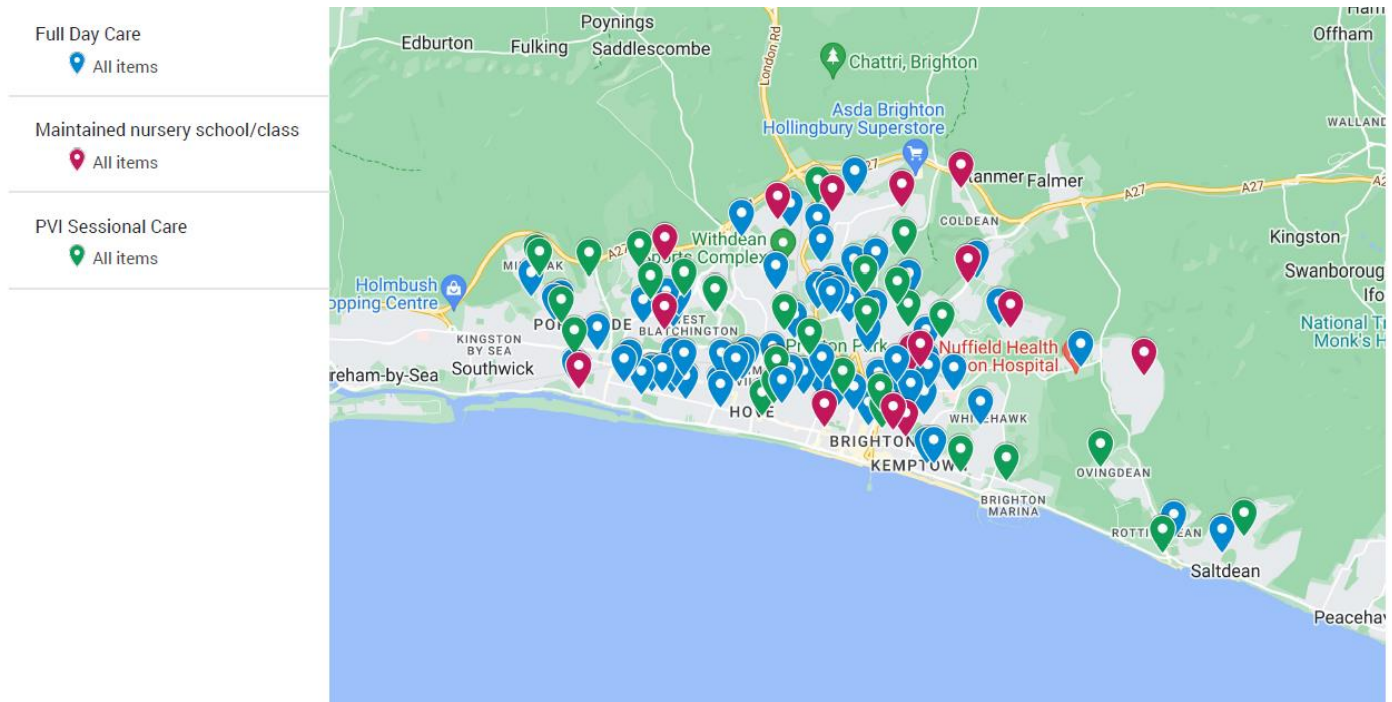


Change in after-school club places between 2018 and 2022

After-school clubs	2018		2022		Per cent change
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Maintained	456	27.0	995	46.9	118.2
Private	974	57.6	777	36.6	-20.2
Voluntary	262	15.5	350	16.5	33.6
Total	1,692	100	2,122	100	25.4

10. City-Wide Childcare Supply

The map below shows the city's early years childcare settings.⁵³



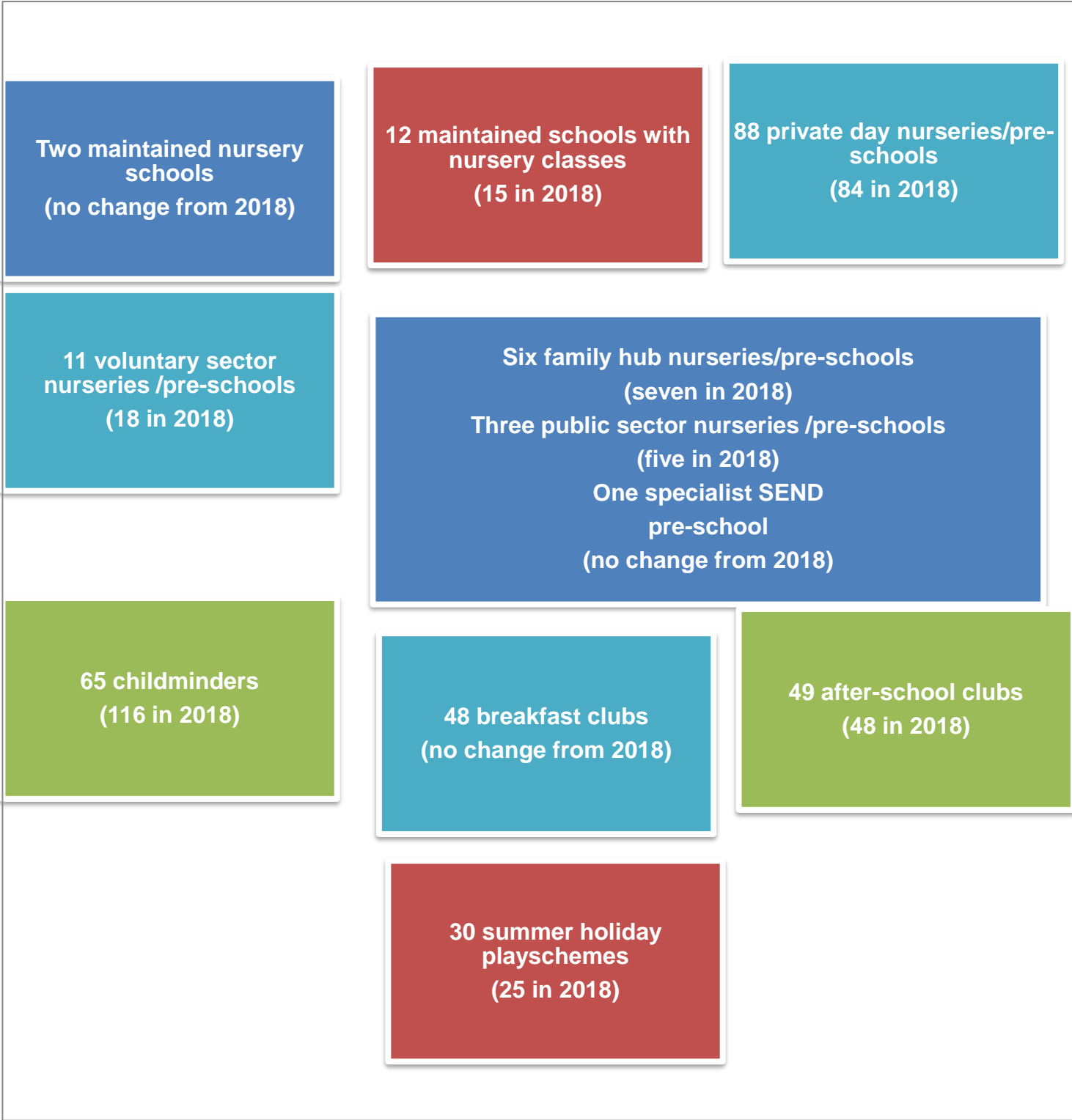
Data can also be found [here](#) and childcare supply ward profiles can be found [here](#)

10.1 Childcare providers

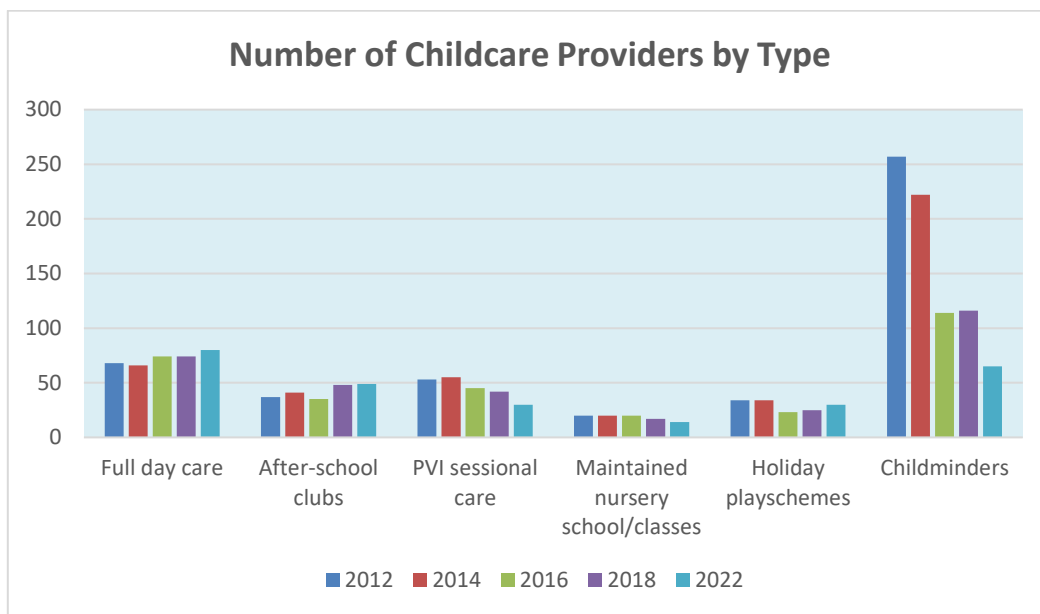
Changes since 2018 are a reduction in the number of childminders, voluntary sector pre-schools, nursery classes in maintained schools, and an increase in the number of private day nurseries and holiday playschemes.⁵⁴

⁵³ At May 2023

⁵⁴ Data for children's centre nurseries collected before Pavilion Pre-school moved to Mile Oak Primary School to become governor-run provision

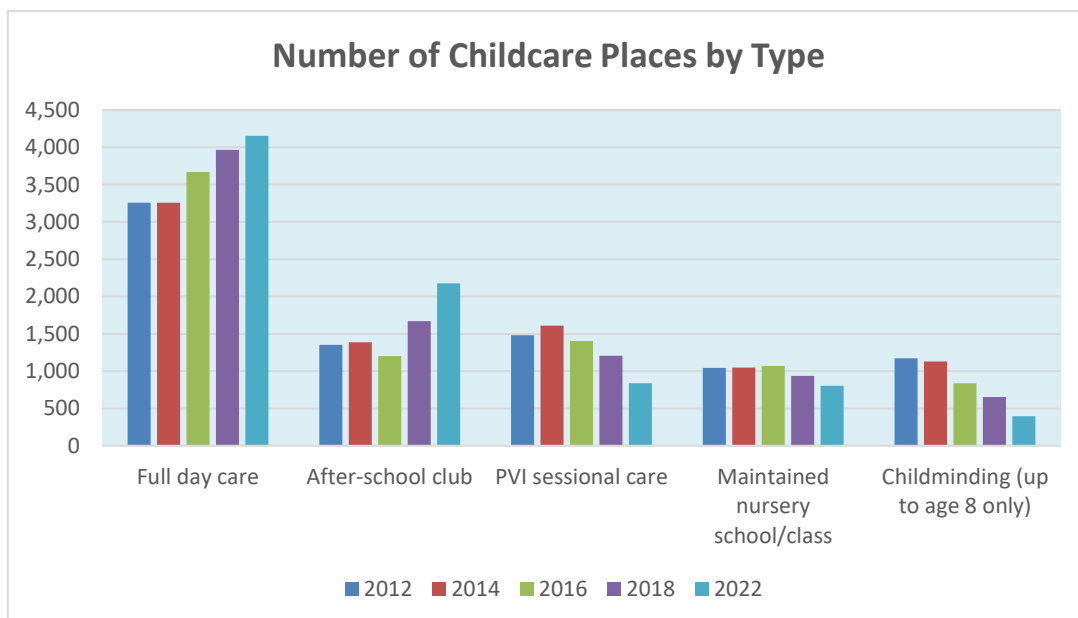


The change in the number of childcare providers by type of provision is shown below.



10.2 Childcare places for children of all ages

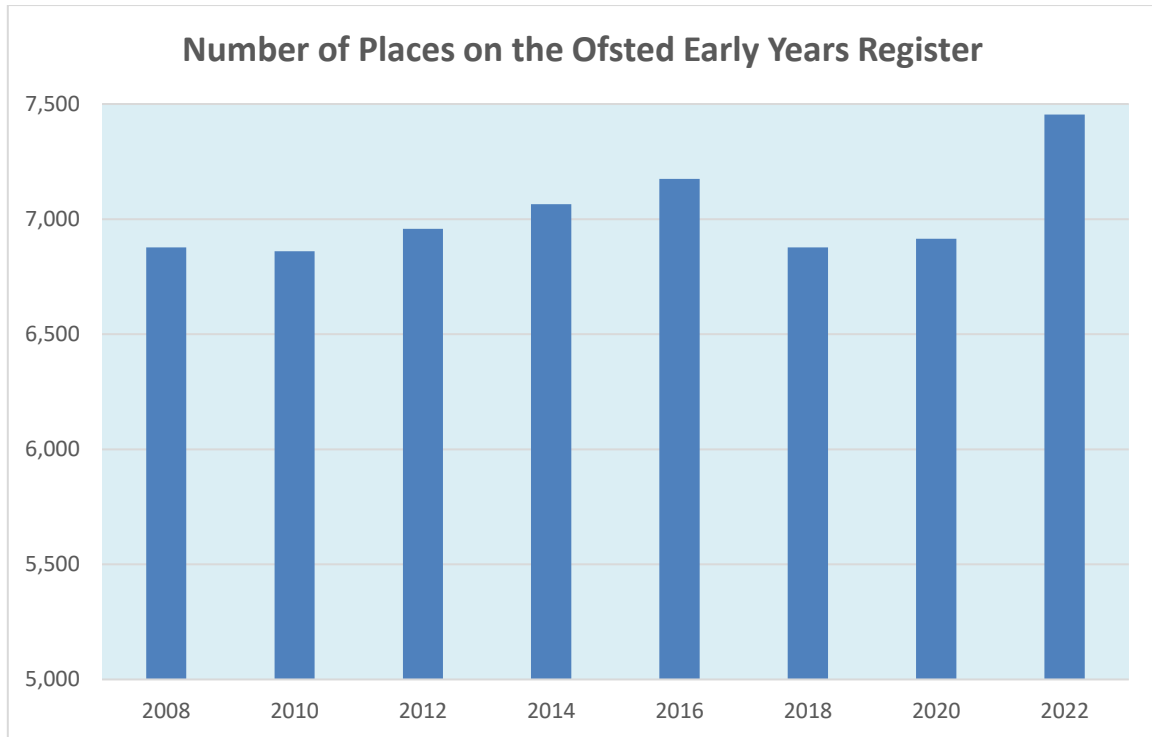
Since 2018 there has been an increase in the number of full day care and after-school club places, but a reduction in sessional care and maintained nursery class places.⁵⁵ The most significant reduction has been in the number of childminding places (a 44% reduction). There has also been a fall in childminding places nationally, but the reduction is not as large as that in Brighton & Hove.



⁵⁵ Place data taken from the childcare sufficiency assessment provider survey, with missing data taken from Ofsted reports

10.3 Ofsted data places for children from birth to five⁵⁶

There has been an 8.4% increase in the number of Ofsted early years register childcare places for children from birth to five since 2018.⁵⁷ This compares with a reduction of 0.9% in England over the same period.



Ofsted data separately for childminders shows a 31.5% reduction in places on the early years register between August 2018 and August 2022, compared with a 27.3% reduction in England over the same period.

10.4 Settings opening and closing between November 2018 and March 2023⁵⁸

Since the last CSA 14 early years settings have closed and not been replaced. Eighteen settings have closed and re-opened under new management, with six moving from the voluntary to the private sector, and two from the maintained to the private sector. Six new settings have opened in premises which were not previously early years provision. Of thirteen sessional care settings which closed, seven have re-opened as full day care.

10.5 Childcare for school-age children

There has been an increase in the number of school-run after-school clubs since 2018. Of 54 primary schools 20 run their own after-school clubs, with three of these also collecting children from linked infant/junior schools. This compares with 15 schools in 2018.

In total 39 primary schools have on-site after school clubs run by the school or a private provider, (35 in 2018) and 12 more have a pick-up service to a club at a local site.

⁵⁶ Ofsted data differs from the data providers report on their childcare sufficiency questionnaire as in the latter they may adapt their place reporting depending on staff availability

⁵⁷ Data from Ofsted from 2018 to August 2022, including childminders

⁵⁸ Excluding change of ownership, for example Bright Horizons purchasing the Saurus nursery group

50 primary schools (48 in 2018) have on-site breakfast clubs, with an additional two having a pick up service from a linked infant/junior school. 58.3% of breakfast clubs open before 8 am

The two special schools have a voluntary sector provider of out of school childcare.

27 after-school clubs responding to the survey reported that they had vacancies, ranging from one to thirty spaces.

10.6 Holiday playschemes

In summer 2023 30 (25 in 2018) Ofsted registered or school-run holiday playschemes will operate. Most of these are also run during the Easter holidays and many at half terms also.

The majority of playschemes take children from age four, provided they have started school reception.

10.7 Early years childcare provision penetration rates⁵⁹

The early years childcare penetration rate refers to the number of early years children per childcare place.⁶⁰ A low figure means that there are fewer children per childcare place and so more choice for parents. Conversely a higher number of children per childcare place means that there is less choice for parents.

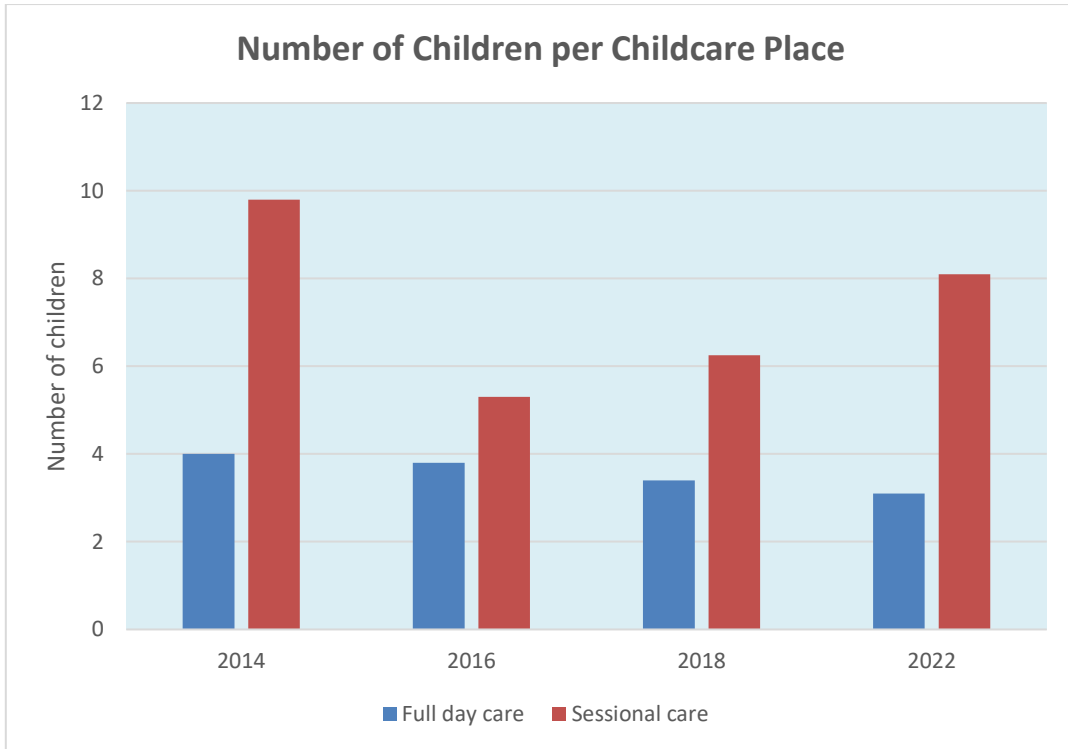
A childcare place for full day care is normally available for 10 hours a day, five days a week. Given that most parents use childcare for less than this, one childcare place may be shared by a number of children.

Parents do not necessarily access childcare in the ward in which they live; in addition although there may be a high number of children per childcare place in one ward, the situation may be reversed in a neighbouring ward; for example the number of children per full day care place in Hanover & Elm Grove (3.1 children per full day care place) compared with Hollingdean & Stanmer (14.2 children per full day care place). In addition demand is not the same across the city as EYFE for two year olds is currently for only the most disadvantaged children, and the extended EYFE for three and four year olds is only for working parents.

Compared with 2018 there are now fewer children per full day care place city wide (3.1 children in 2022 compared with 3.4 in 2018) but more children per sessional care place (7.9 in 2023, 6.3 in 2018).

⁵⁹ Ward data is prior to changes in May 2023

⁶⁰ Places data is that reported by providers, not the data from Ofsted, which differs



Ward	Number of children aged 0 to 4	Full day care	Sessional care
Brunswick & Adelaide	316	none	8.3
Central Hove	349	3.5	none
East Brighton	726	3.6	5.9
Goldsmid	753	1.0	26.0
Hangleton & Knoll	886	4.2	5.0
Hanover & Elm Grove	777	3.1	7.5
Hollingdean & Stanmer	694	14.2	5.9
Hove Park	568	5.2	7.6
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	717	11.2	6.5
North Portslade	621	11.9	7.6
Patcham	806	4.5	8.2
Preston Park	662	3.5	10.9
Queen's Park	613	4.4	2.8
Regency	305	none	11.8
Rottingdean Coastal	542	4.1	4.4
South Portslade	688	4.4	4.8
St. Peter's & North Laine	635	3.6	28.7
Westbourne	509	3.4	none
Wish	587	0.9	none
Withdean	693	1.1	11.3
Woodingdean	540	8.6	9.1
Brighton & Hove	12,987	3.1	7.9

Combining full day care and sessional care, city-wide there are 2.2 children per childcare place (no change from 2018).

Ward	Full day care and sessional care
Brunswick & Adelaide	8.3
Central Hove	3.5
East Brighton	2.2
Goldsmid	1.0
Hangleton & Knoll	2.3
Hanover & Elm Grove	2.2
Hollingdean & Stanmer	4.2
Hove Park	3.1
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	4.1
North Portslade	4.6
Patcham	2.9
Preston Park	2.7
Queen's Park	1.6
Regency	5.9
Rottingdean Coastal	2.7
South Portslade	2.6
St. Peter's & North Laine	3.0
Westbourne	2.8
Wish	1.0
Withdean	1.2
Woodingdean	3.4
Brighton & Hove	2.2

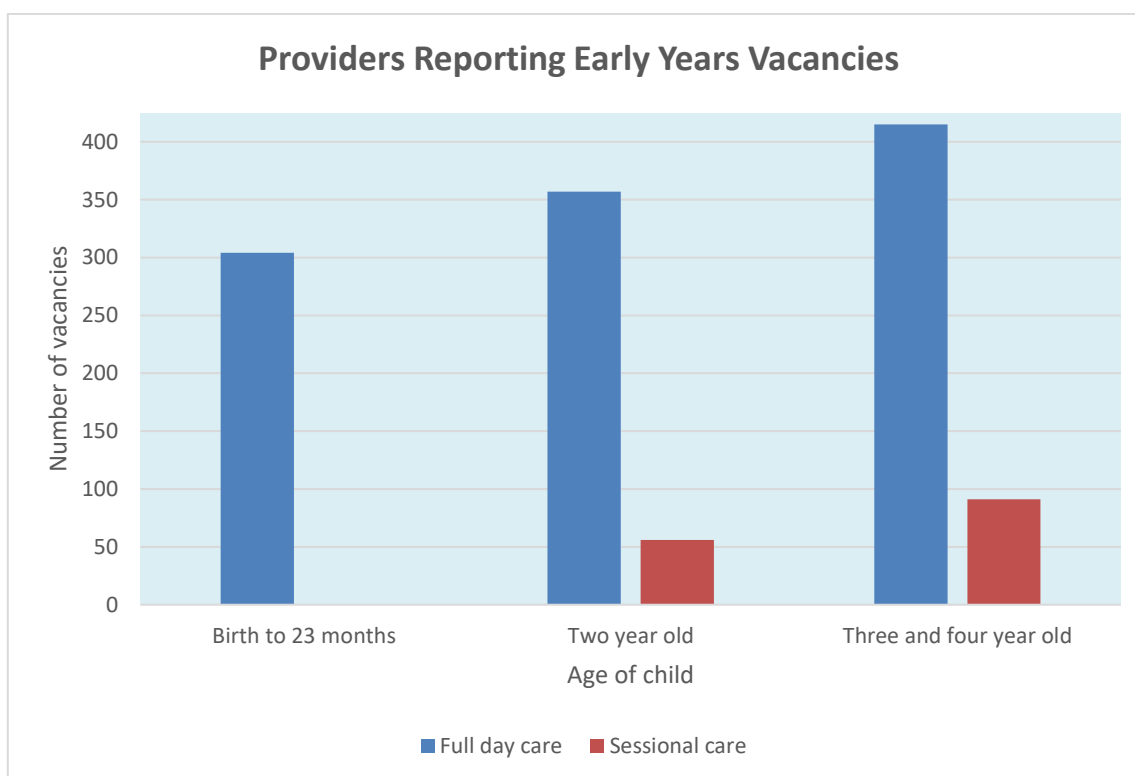
The distribution of childminders by ward is shown below.

Ward	Number of childminders
Brunswick & Adelaide	2
Central Hove	1
East Brighton	3
Goldsmid	2
Hangleton & Knoll	6
Hanover & Elm Grove	10
Hollingdean & Stanmer	1
Hove Park	6
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	2
North Portslade	4
Patcham	7
Preston Park	4
Queen's Park	0

Regency	0
Rottingdean Coastal	3
South Portslade	2
St Peter's & North Laine	1
Westbourne	0
Wish	3
Withdean	4
Woodingdean	4
Total	65

10.8 Childcare providers reporting vacancies⁶¹

Of early years PVI childcare providers reporting, most had vacancies throughout the age groups.⁶²



In total 81% of full day care and 69% of PVI⁶³ sessional care providers reported that they had vacancies. Some providers commented that they would take more children if they could recruit sufficient staff, but it was not clear whether this was the case for all providers.

⁶¹ A vacancy is defined as a place that could realistically be used by a child. It does not necessarily have to be full time, but should be possible for a family to use it. A place that is available fifteen hours per week in total **is** counted as a vacancy. A place that is only available for one short session (e.g. one afternoon per week), **is not** counted as a vacancy. Providers may have used different interpretation of this guidance in reporting their vacancies

⁶² Providers stated that their vacancies changed regularly

⁶³ Vacancies amongst maintained nursery classes were not reported

10.9 Early years providers offering EYFE

Early years providers offer the early years free entitlements in accordance with a [provider agreement](#). The agreement is in accordance with statutory guidance which requires providers to offer “standalone” free places without the requirement to purchase additional hours of childcare. Providers are able to limit the number of standalone places they offer, in some cases offering only one.⁶⁴ Parents have then to purchase additional hours of childcare in order to get their free ones and this has an impact on the cost of childcare for parents.

10.10 Early years providers offering EYFE for three and four year olds

149 providers⁶⁵ offer universal EYFE for three and four year olds, which is all Ofsted registered group-based early years providers in the city, with the addition of 37% per cent of registered childminders. All but six⁶⁶ of these offer the extended entitlement to 30 hours free childcare.

Analysis of EYFE places across the city suggests that there is currently sufficient provision overall for three and four year olds taking up EYFE for 15/30 hours. However, as noted in the ward data above provision is not evenly spread across the city and so parents may have to travel to find childcare.

10.11 Early years providers offering EYFE for two year olds

130 providers⁶⁷ offer EYFE for two year olds, including three maintained providers (no change from 2016).

Analysis of EYFE places across the city suggests that there is currently sufficient provision overall for two year olds currently eligible for 15 hours EYFE. However, as noted in the ward data above provision is not evenly spread across the city and so parents may have to travel to find childcare.

10.12 Childcare available in non-traditional hours

Since 2018 there has been an increase in the number of full day care providers open in the early morning, with 47.5% open before 8 am (41.9% in 2018), but a reduction in the number open after 6 pm (22.5% in 2022, compared with 25.7% in 2018).

There are no full day care providers open late in the evening or at weekends. However, of the childminders responding to the survey six stated that that they provided care on a Saturday, and five on a Sunday.

10.13 Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Local authorities are required to have regard to the needs of parents in their area for childcare which is suitable for disabled children.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Stating that they do this because of low EYFE funding rates in Brighton & Hove

⁶⁵ Three providers are currently suspended because they have an “inadequate” Ofsted judgement

⁶⁶ Two maintained nursery classes and four nursery classes in independent schools

⁶⁷ Seven providers are currently suspended as because they have a “requires improvement” or “inadequate” Ofsted judgement

⁶⁸ Childcare Act 2006, s6.2.(ii)

All registered childcare providers are supported to welcome children with SEND and to make reasonable adjustments, complying with the Equality Act 2010 and the [SEND code of practice](#) in order to offer EYFE.

Additional support funding (ASF) is offered to early years providers to meet any extra costs (such as additional staff or specialist equipment) for a child with SEND. ASF matches EYFE hours⁶⁹ for two, three and four year olds. In 2022/23 ASF was paid for 34 two year olds and 202 three and four year olds.

ASF rates have been increased for 2023/24 to £11.42 per hour for PVI providers and £15.03 per hour for maintained providers in order to cover staff salaries and on costs.

Settings which take a three or four year old in receipt of Disability Living Allowance receive an annual Disability Access Fund payment of £828. In 2022/23 DAF was paid for 88 children.

Inclusion funding may be available to support school-age children with SEND to attend after-school clubs and holiday playschemes, up to maximum amounts. In 2022/23 this funded 81 children⁷⁰ to attend a mainstream after-school club or holiday playscheme. Childcare inclusion funding for providers has been increased to £11.42 in 2023/24 in order to cover staff salaries and on costs.

A one-off annual grant has been paid to a voluntary sector organisation providing inclusive after-school and holiday provision for children with SEND.

⁶⁹ As needed to enable the child to access the full curriculum

⁷⁰ An increase from 71 children in 2021/22

11. Childcare Prices

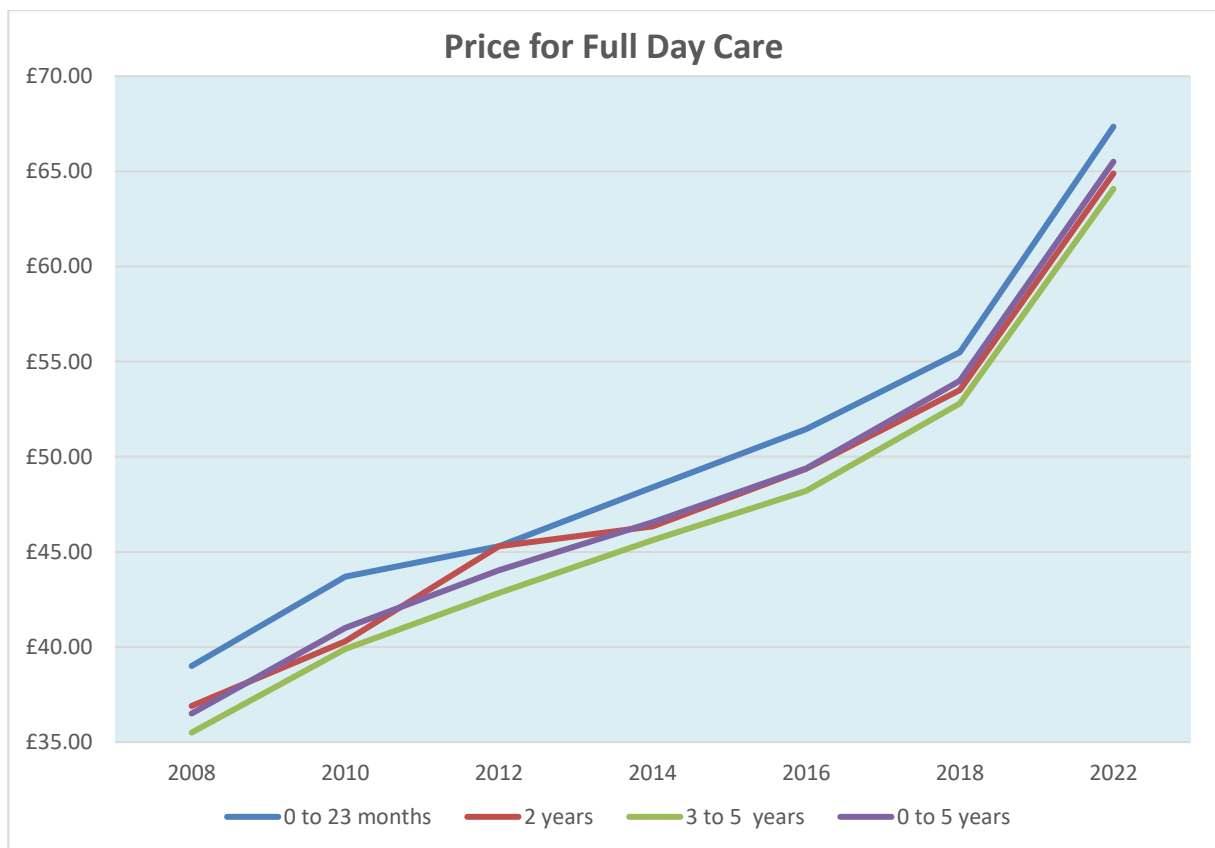
Childcare prices have been calculated using information supplied by providers, and where necessary have been extrapolated using the standard daily rate for a full day or a full session of care. Prices do not include any discounts, for example for siblings or where a parent purchases care over more days a week.

Some providers include a range of services in their fees such as food, wipes and nappies, for which others make an additional charge.

The prices shown are the fee charged to parents for a full day or a full session of care; prices are often higher as an hourly rate where parents have to purchase additional hours to wrap around the EYFE. In some cases these additional charges result in a very high hourly rate, which is not represented in the data below.

11.1 Full day care

The average price for full day care is £65.51 per day,⁷¹ a 21.3% increase on 2018 (£54.00).

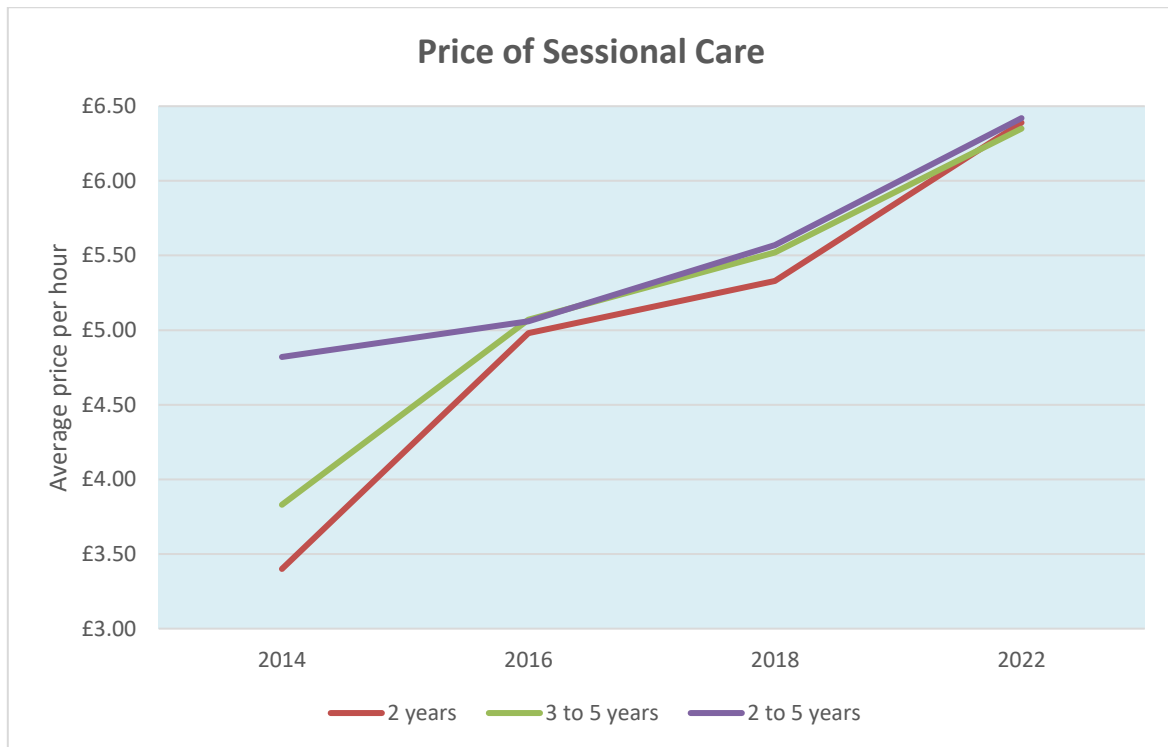


Additional charges for hours which parents can purchase at the beginning and end of the day range from £6.65 to £18.00 per hour, and average £11.23 per hour.

⁷¹ Average price for a 10 hour day

11.2 Sessional care

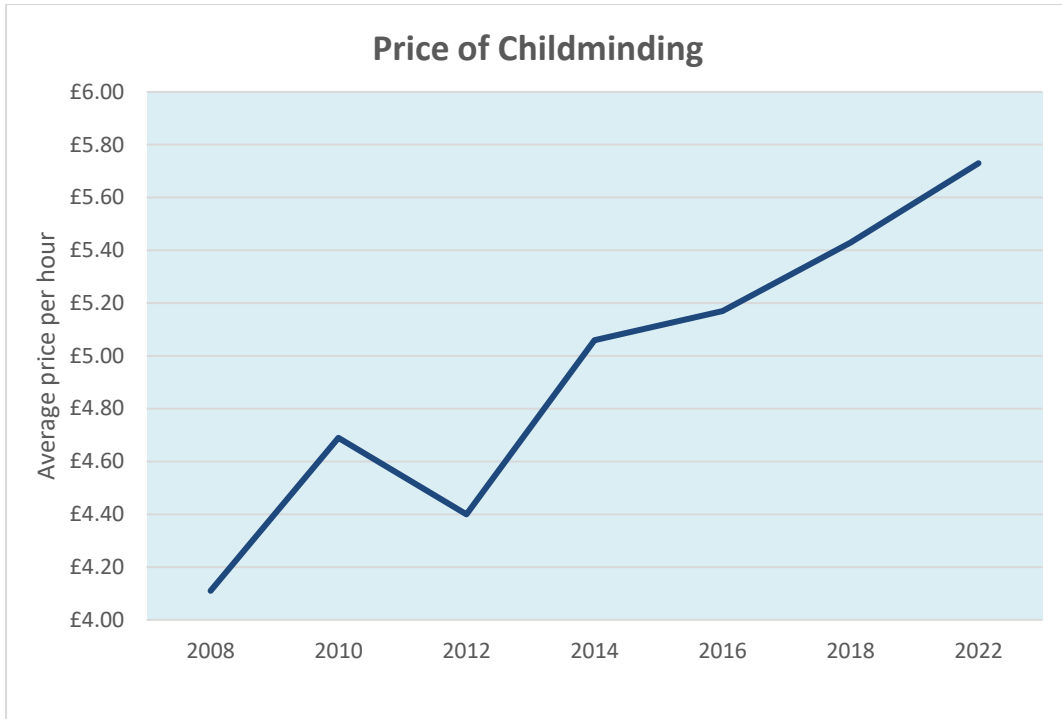
The average price for sessional care⁷² is £6.42 per hour (£5.57 per hour in 2018), a 15.3% increase.



11.3 Childminding

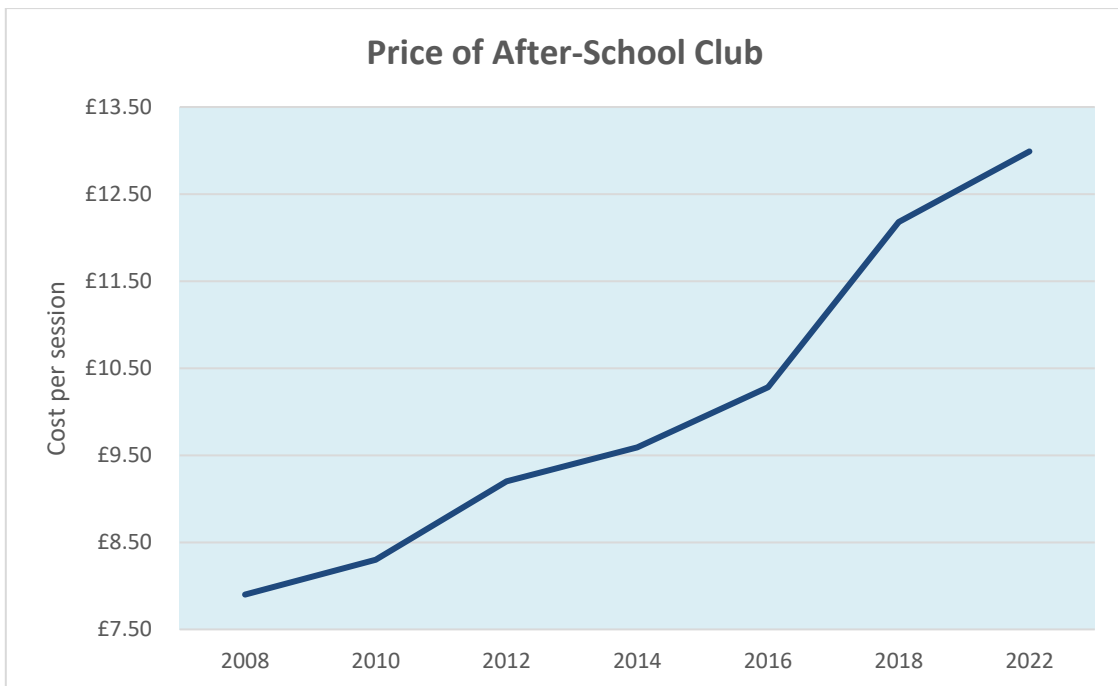
The average of price of childminding is £5.73 per hour (£5.43 per hour in 2018) a 5.5% increase.

⁷² Sessional care prices include independent school fees which are frequently higher than those of sessional private and voluntary sector settings



11.4 After-school clubs

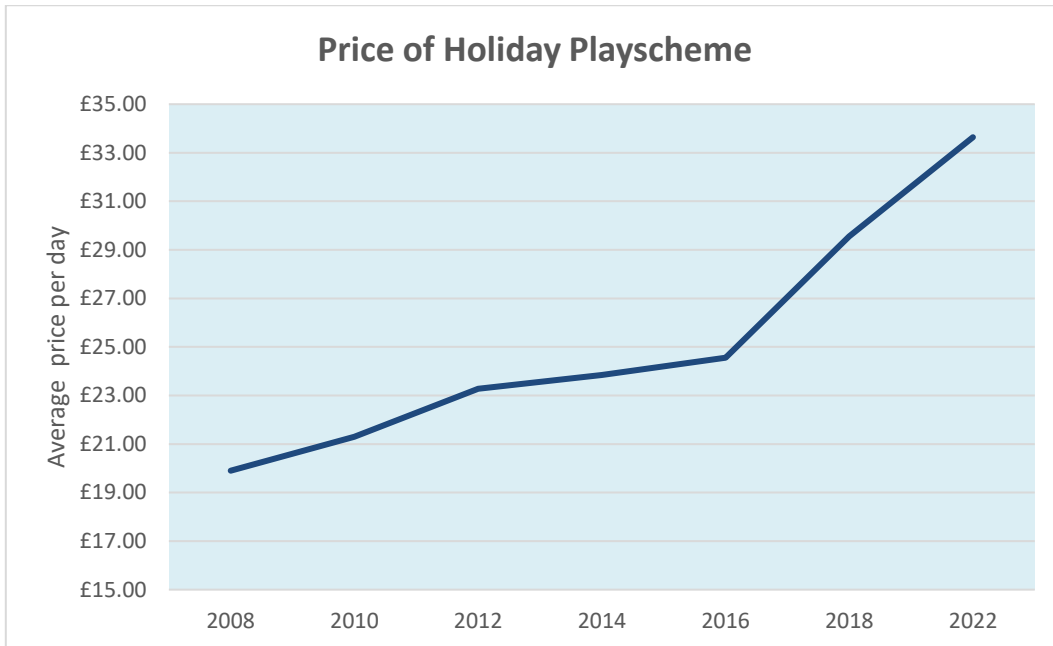
The average price of an after-school club session⁷³ is £12.99, (£12.18 in 2018) a 6.7% increase.



⁷³ The average length of an after-school club session is two hours 45 minutes

11.5 Holiday playschemes

The average price of a holiday playscheme is £33.64 per day, ⁷⁴ (£29.56 in 2018) a 13.8% increase.

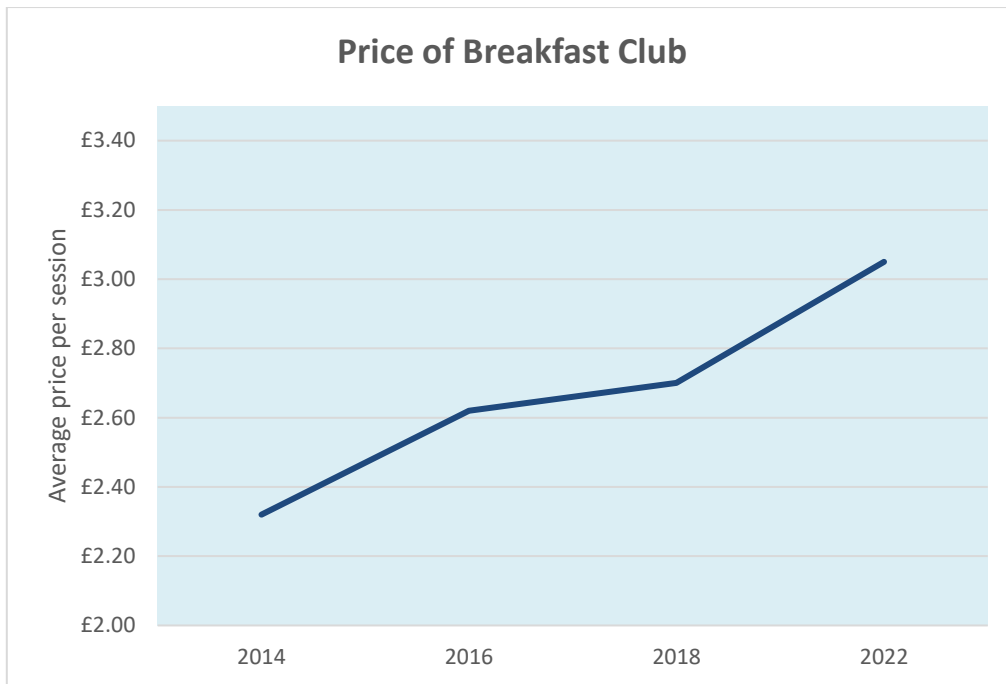


Nine playschemes offer parents the option to purchase additional hours to extend the day. The cost per additional hour ranges from £1.75 to £15.

11.6 Breakfast clubs

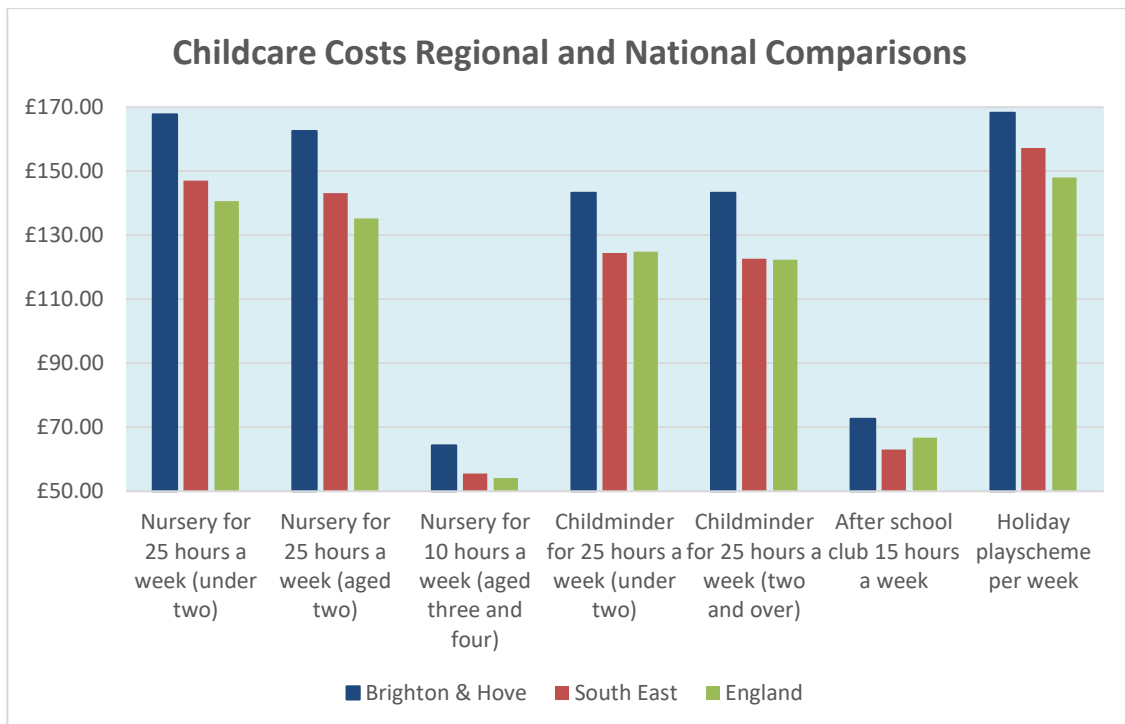
The average cost of a breakfast club is £3.05, (£2.70 in 2018), an increase of 12.9%.

⁷⁴ The price is for a standard day, excluding any earlier or later hours that can be purchased; day lengths range from six to 10 hours



11.7 Regional and national price comparisons⁷⁵

All average childcare costs in Brighton & Hove are higher than those in England as a whole, and the South East.



11.8 Help with childcare costs

In addition to EYFE parents can access support with their childcare costs, where the childcare is registered with Ofsted (including on the voluntary childcare register) through

⁷⁵ Data from [Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2022](#) and [Holiday Childcare Survey 2022](#)

- Tax free childcare – for children under the age of 12⁷⁶ parents can received up to £2,000 per child per year government support with childcare costs (or up to £4,000 if the child is disabled)
- Childcare support through Universal Credit – up to 85% of childcare costs, with a maximum of up to £646 per month for one child, and up to £1,108 for two or more children
- Care to Learn – for parents under the age of 20 at the start of their course in school or college
- Childcare grant – for students in higher education who are eligible for student finance

The family hubs offer help and advice to families on support with the cost of childcare.

⁷⁶ Until 1 September after their 16th birthday if the child is disabled

12. Early Years Providers' Views of Childcare

Providers were asked for their views on childcare. Their main concern was difficulty with staff recruitment and retention. This is likely to have an impact on expansion of provision to meet the new EYFE offer.

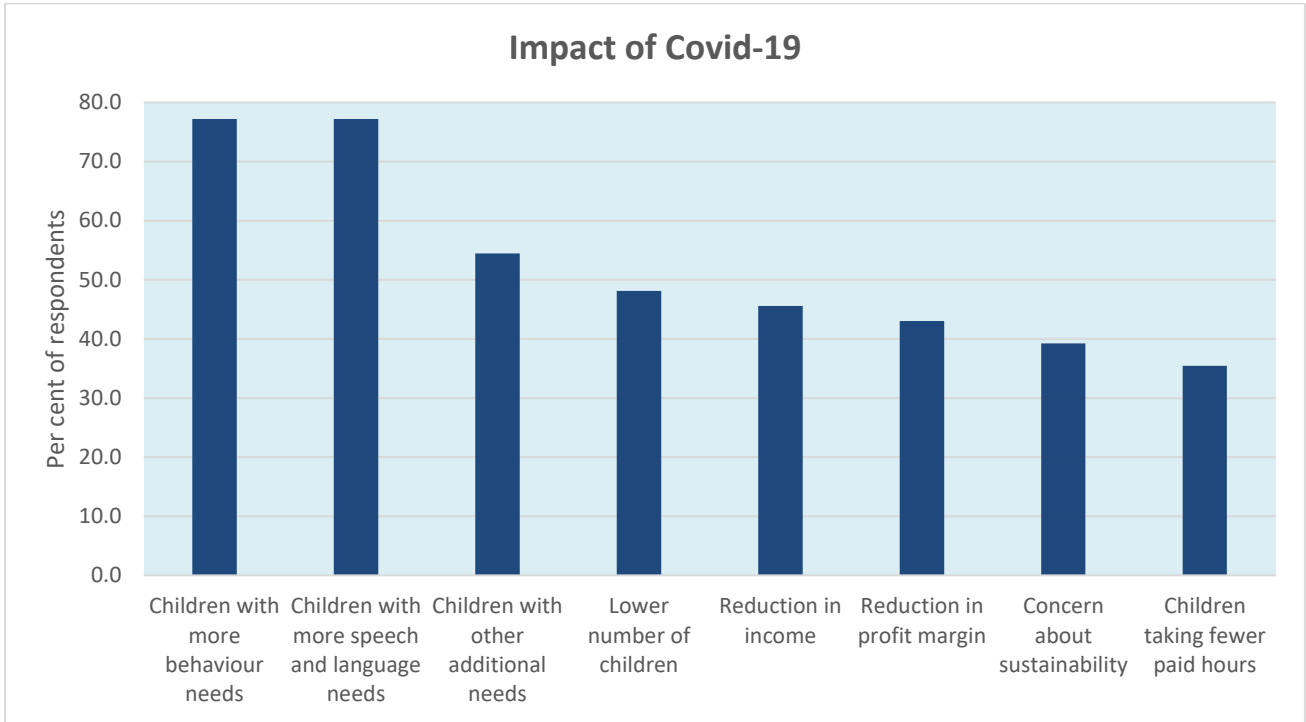
12.1 Recruiting and retaining staff

77% had had difficulty recruiting or retaining staff in the past 12 months, and 39% had had higher staff turnover in the past 12 months compared with previous years.



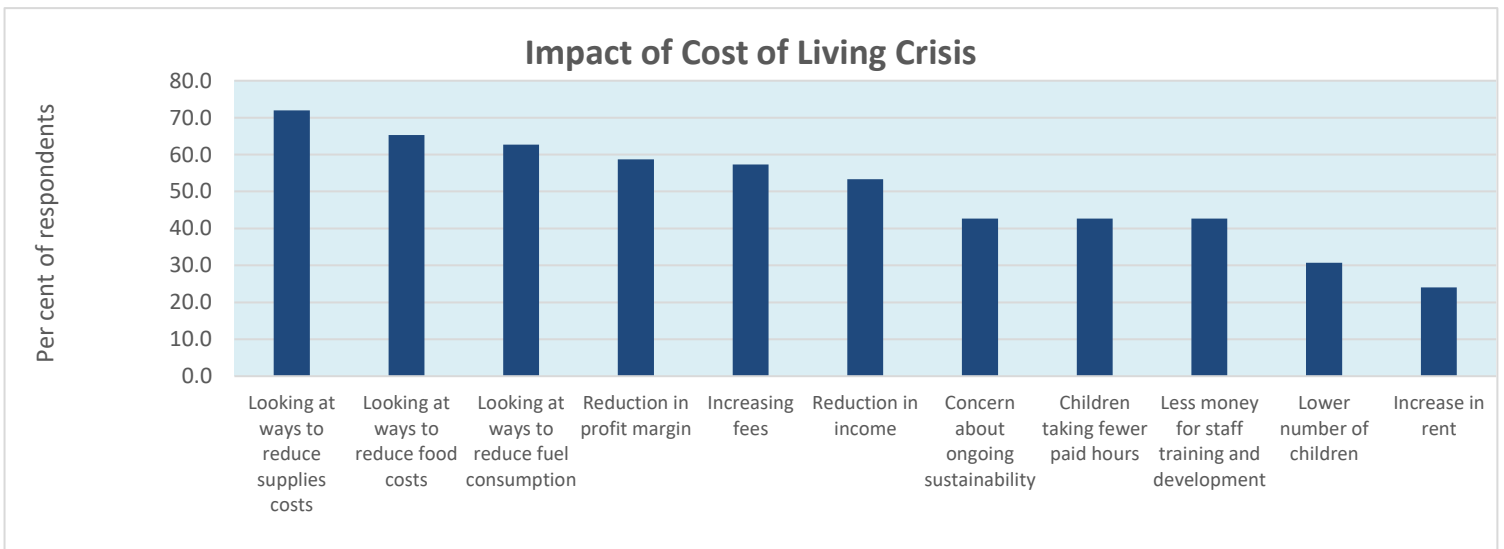
12.2 Impact of Covid-19

86% of early years providers reported that Covid-19 had had an impact on their business.



12.3 Impact of cost of living crisis

84% of early years providers reported that the cost of living crisis had had an impact on their business.

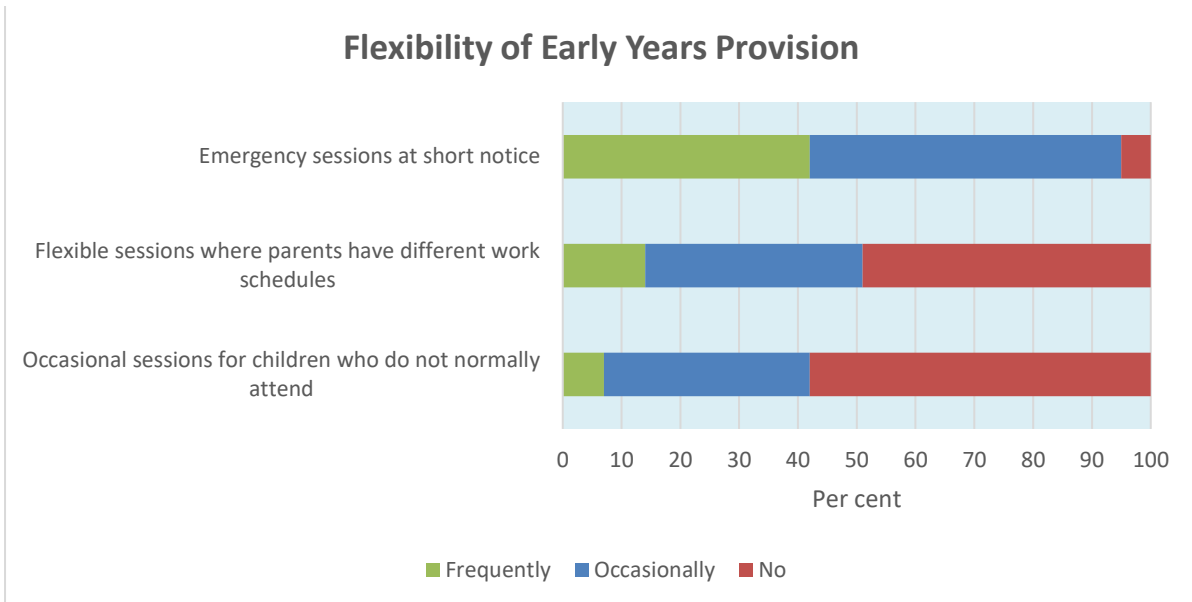


12.4 Business Planning

79% of early years providers stated that they had a business plan, and 67% had a marketing strategy.

12.5 Flexibility of Early Years Provision

Some early years providers offered flexible provision, mainly emergency sessions for children already on roll.

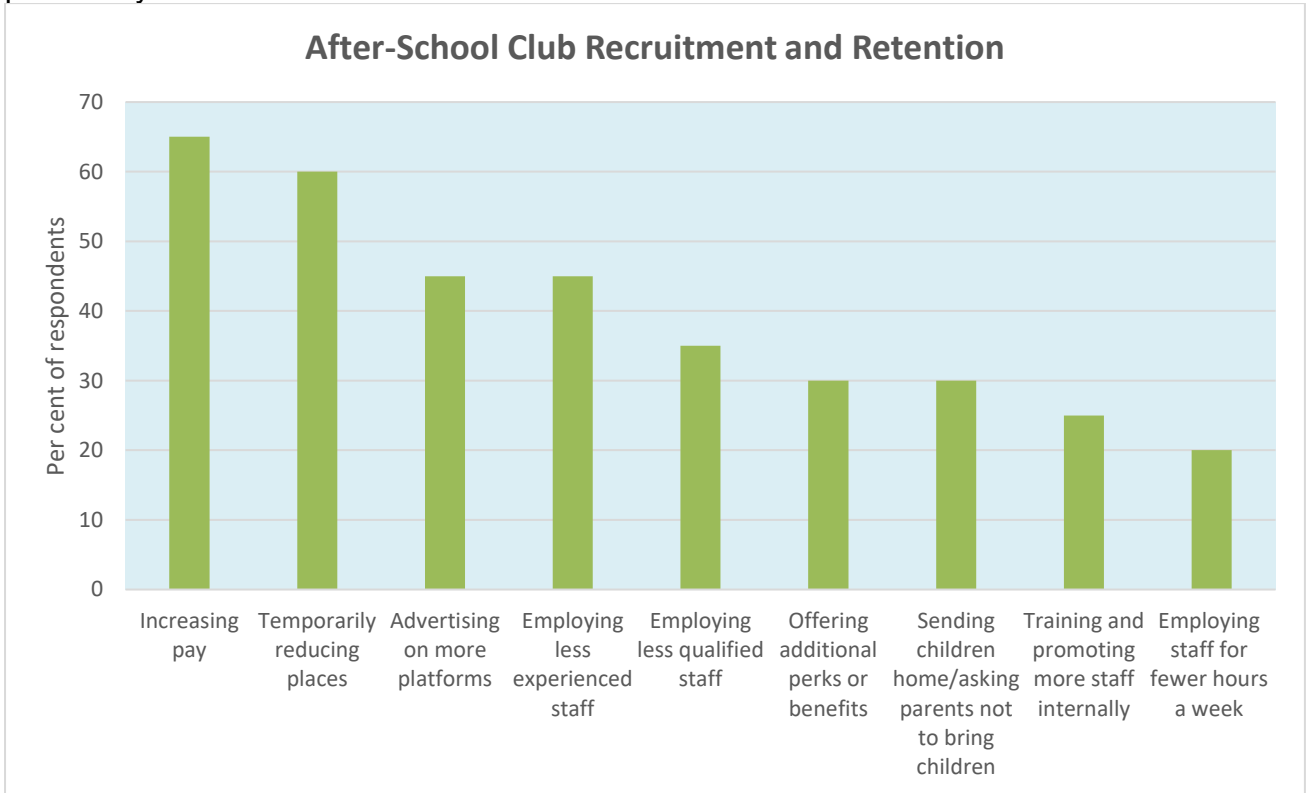


13. After-school providers views of childcare

After-school club providers were also asked for their views on childcare.

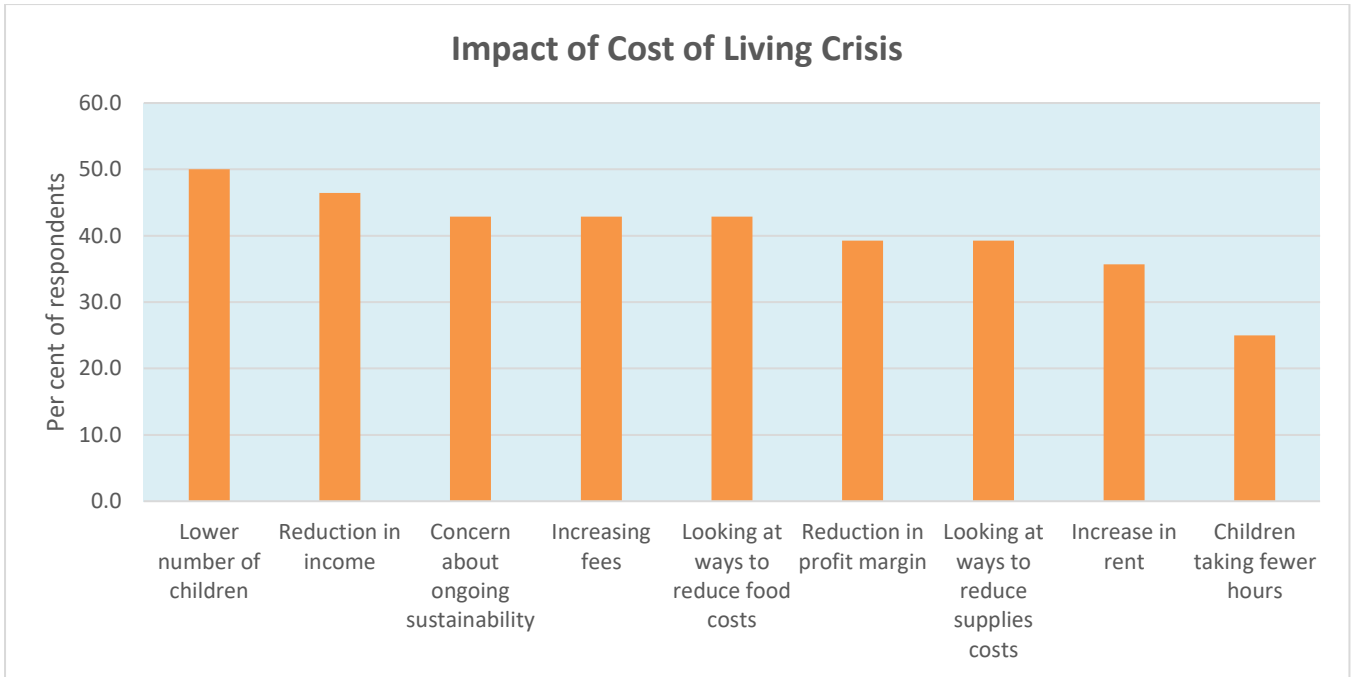
13.1 Recruiting and retaining staff

58% of after-school club providers had had difficulty recruiting or retaining staff in the past 12 months, and 30% had had higher staff turnover in the past 12 months compared with previous years.



13.2 Impact of Cost of Living Crisis

76% of after-school club providers stated that the cost of living crisis had impacted their business.

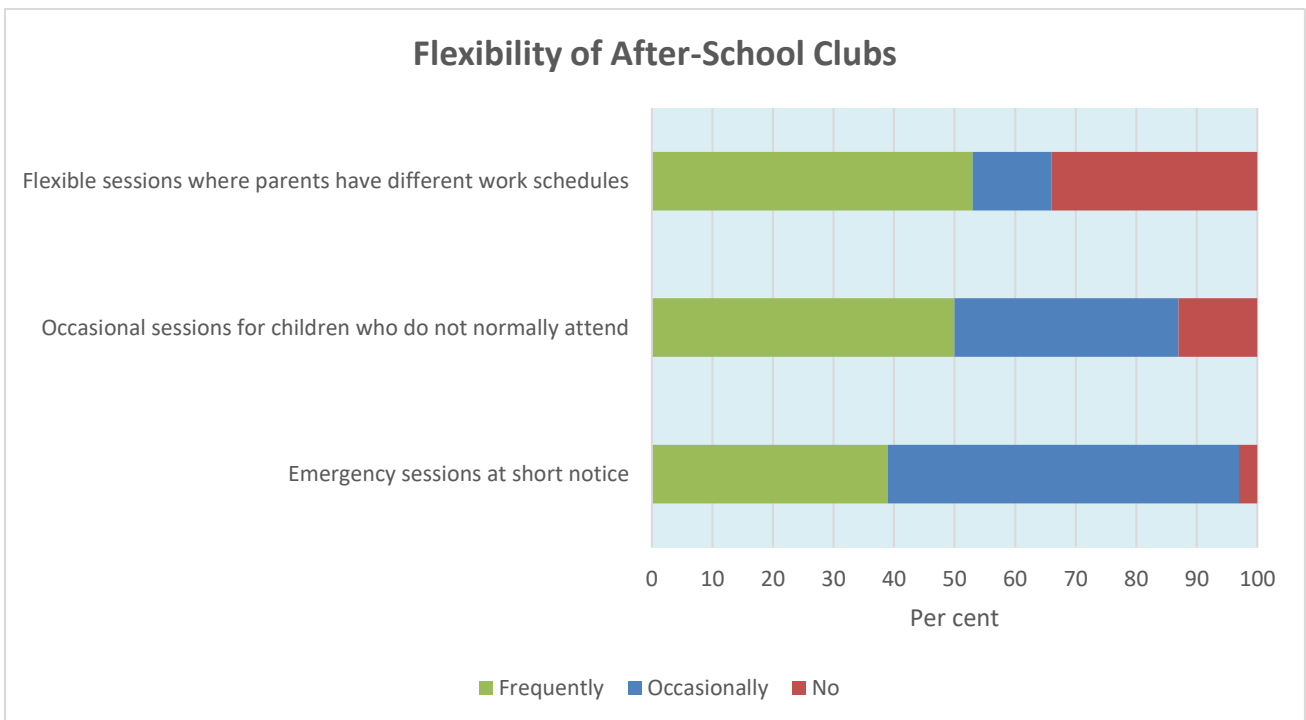


13.3 Business Planning

76% of after-school club providers stated that they had a business plan, and 55% had a marketing strategy.

13.4 Flexibility of After-School Club Provision

Most after-school clubs offered flexible provision.



Appendix 1 Parental Childcare Survey

Appendix 2 Ward Map

