

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Martin Gocke (Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor))
(Chairman)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
(Vice-Chairman)
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jane Coley, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jo Lagares, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Roger Prew, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Phil Sherwood, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Debbie Smith, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Richard Stok, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Greg Wilton, Teacher Union Representative



Also Invited:

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children,
Young People & Learning

Thursday 11 March 2021, 4.30 - 6.30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Agenda

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members. Reporting: ALL	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting. Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days. Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting. Reporting: ALL	

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3.	Minutes and Matters Arising	3 - 10
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2021. Reporting: ALL	
4.	High Needs Block Sub Group Minutes - 20 January 2021	11 - 14
	To receive the minutes of the High Needs Block Sub-Group on 20 January 2021. Reporting: Paul Clark	
5.	2020-21 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	15 - 80
	To provide an update on the 2020-21 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to be submitted to the Executive Member and subsequently published on the Bracknell Forest Council Website, as required by the authority's statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare. Reporting: Paul Clark	
6.	2021-22 proposals for the Early Years Block Budget	81 - 92
	To seek agreement for the 2021-22 Early Years' budgets, including the values to be attributed to the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Funding Formula. Reporting: Paul Clark	
7.	2021-22 proposals for the High Needs Block Budget	93 - 128
	To seek comments on the detailed budget proposals for the High Needs Block element of the Schools Budget. Reporting: Paul Clark	
8.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 4.30pm on Thursday 24 June 2021. Reporting: Joanna Gibbons	

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SCHOOLS FORUM 14 JANUARY 2021 4.30 - 6.00 PM



Present:

Martin Gocke, Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor) (Chairman)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher) (Vice-Chairman)
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jane Coley, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Jo Lagares, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Roger Prew, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Phil Sherwood, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Debbie Smith, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Richard Stok, Primary School Representative (Governor)

Observer:

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning (Observer)

167. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed Jo Lagares to the Forum who was replacing Neil Davies.

The Chair highlighted that Leslie Semper, an Academy representative, did not seem to have attended any meetings. Liz Cole offered to ask Leslie whether she still wanted to be a member of the Forum. It was felt that the Forum would need another Academy representative if Leslie was no longer available, in which case Paul Clark would follow-up.

Action: Liz Cole and Paul Clark

Paul Clark had been in contact with Liz Savage who was a Headteacher from another Academy who had expressed an interest in joining the Forum.

168. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

169. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Forum on 10 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

170. School Places Plan and Capital Strategy 2021-25

The Forum considered a report which sought approval of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25. If approved, this would go before the Executive in February 2021 to be signed off.

Chris Taylor explained that, in the past, forecasts had been less than accurate, but since the new forecasting system had been introduced in 2019, it had proved to be 98% accurate for the 2020 intake. Chris Taylor hoped that would mean it continued to be accurate going forward.

Chris Taylor highlighted that there had been an expected decrease in early years and primary pupil numbers, which was a continuation of the trend from last year. Secondary and post-16 pupil numbers were both expected to increase. This was linked to the previous rise in primary numbers 5-8 years ago which was currently working its way up through secondary schools. An overall increase in SEN pupil numbers was forecast.

Graph One (paragraph 3.2 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25) showed the trend of the local population, plotting both the NHS Births data and the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population Predictions. Taken together, the figures suggested a decrease in the numbers of 5-year olds in Bracknell Forest over the next five years.

Graph Two (paragraph 3.3 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25) showed a spike in 2019/20 of housing completions in Bracknell Forest. The spike was linked to housing development which had been expected in earlier years and finally come to fruition. It was not anticipated that this spike in housing would result in a spike in the school population as 85% of families moving within the Borough did not move their children from their original school. It was expected that the peak of demand from the new housing may be reached up to 5-7 years after the commencement of the housing development.

Graph Fourteen (paragraph 8.1 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25) showed the forecasts of primary pupil numbers Borough-wide over the next 5 years. In September 2020 there had been a surplus of 11% and, if no action had been taken, this was expected to rise to 20% by 2025. The strategy to reduce the surplus of places was detailed in paragraphs 8.5-8.13 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25.

Graph Twenty-Two (paragraph 9.1 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25) showed the forecast secondary pupil numbers based on the intake year 7 for 2020-25. Overall, there was a surplus of 9% in 2020 and this was due to rise to a surplus of 11% by 2025.

The Forum queried the likelihood of the forecasts matching the actual numbers. Chris Taylor replied that the system was changed in 2019 so he had only been able to measure accuracy from the September 2020 intake. Chris Taylor could not guarantee that it would remain 98% reliable going forward, but the downward trend of population and birth data seemed to affirm the projections.

The Forum highlighted that the new Local Plan was scheduled to be published in the next month or so and asked Chris Taylor whether he had seen that, and whether there were any significant implications on school place planning. Chris replied that the Council was joined up on this and that the borough's planners had included him in discussing the education implications of the projected new housing. Chris Taylor had

done some calculations on what impact it may have on pupil yields. It was possible to estimate how many children arise from a house of a certain size and broadly estimate how many houses might be built on a given site area when housing was likely to be built based on previous data. It was however more difficult to estimate when new housing would come forward on land which was not yet designated for housing. Taking the worst-case scenario of maximum yield, Chris Taylor believed there was sufficient capacity in the school estate, especially for secondary pupils. However, due to the more limited mobility of primary-aged children, there was possibly a need to build more primary schools, depending when and where the new housing came forward.

The Forum asked whether there were any calculations about moving into the Borough and not just moving within the Borough. Chris Taylor replied that paragraphs 3.13-3.15 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25 set out the key issues in cross-border movement. The difficulties arose from primary schools being in the designated areas of different boroughs, meaning there was lots of potential for cross-border movement. The data for the last two years suggested a decrease in the numbers going to cross-border primary schools but an increase in those going to cross-border secondary schools.

The Forum asked whether the increase in housing production was likely to lead to more families coming into the Borough. Chris Taylor responded that he had not looked at that specific issue, but he felt that the scope may be higher for developments closer to the Borough boundaries.

Regarding the impact on individual school budgets, the Forum asked whether there was any plan to work with individual schools or to report to the Forum the impact on individual schools. Chris Taylor replied that, last year, Paul Clark helped him to take the forecast numbers and create "What If" budgets for each school. Paul Clark confirmed that it was the intention to provide medium term pupil forecasts and high-level budget income projections for all schools every year. The Forum expressed that it would also be useful to receive a report showing the overall pressures, particularly on the primary sector.

Action: Chris Taylor and Paul Clark

Councillor Barnard expressed that he had a high degree of confidence in the accuracy of the forecasts. The Woodhurst Park development had been expected to affect the yield in Warfield, but this did not materialise as parents chose to keep their children at the schools they were already at. This shows credibility in what Chris Taylor had reported.

The Chair asked Cherry Hall and Chris Taylor to comment on the Early Years figures in section 7 of the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25. Cherry Hall had been asked to be clearer on the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for early years but explained that early years did not calculate a PAN. This was because providers adapted their capacity based on space requirements which were dependent on the age of the children attending. Cherry Hall's team had done a lot of work to make more predictions, but this was challenging. However, with the available birth data they were getting better data. Chris Taylor added that, although there were significant differences in the way pupil places were measured, and the base data on which they were formulated was the same. Cherry Hall explained that they were also beginning to look at migration as well. What they did not know yet was how many of our children were going to providers outside the Borough. Cherry Hall was looking at how to work with our closest neighbours to gather data on that.

The Chair asked when the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was due to be presented to the Forum. Cherry Hall explained that she was working on it and would present it to the Forum when it was ready. Paul Clark added that, although it was usually brought to the Forum in March, it did not have to be in March.

The Chair stated that the report was useful and generated a lot of confidence.

RESOLVED to APPROVE the School Places Plan and School Capacity Strategy 2021-25 in Appendix A of the report.

171. Update on the 2021-22 High Need Block Budget

The Forum considered a report which updated on the development of the 2021-22 High Needs Block (HNB) element of the Schools Budget.

Kashif Nawaz advised that steps were being taken as part of the Council's transformation project to address the pressures on the HNB Budget. Updates were included in section 6 of the report and Kashif Nawaz noted that progress had only been made possible due to the collaboration with schools and partners. Further updates would be shared at the next meeting of the HNB sub-group.

In relation to controlling the number of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs), Kashif Nawaz was producing information that would be shared with the Forum in the next couple of weeks.

Action: Kashif Nawaz

Progress was continuing in developing provision and two Service Level Agreements had already been signed off for the Special Resource Provisions (SRPs). The project transformation group was going to keep oversight of that, and data and evidence was being produced parallel to the work being done.

The Chair asked Paul Clark to comment on the financial forecasts, as the Forum had been asked to note that the position had worsened. Paul Clark explained that he had been continually updating the forecast figures. The annual overspend had gone up and was close to a £5m. The assumptions going forward had been amended and all the savings expected from the last work plan had been moved forward. Progress had been adversely impacted by Covid-19. Paul Clark was expecting to present more detailed proposals in March.

The Forum asked for an update on the 15 pupils that had not been placed in schools and queried whether that situation was likely to arise again next September or whether steps had been taken to avoid that happening again. Rachel Morgan advised that the Council had been working closely with four families to place those children. There had been an increase in the cost to place those children as specialist provision was required. Rachel Morgan explained that it was a rare situation which she was hoping would not recur, but other local authorities (LAs) noted the same this year. The issues arose due to Covid-19 and specialist providers not accepting new admissions. The Council was conducting a feasibility study of the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Hub. The aim was to gather data and analysis to make a case to create a new provision in the Borough which, if approved, was hoped to reduce pressures.

The Forum expressed that it had noted on several occasions that the only way to alleviate the HNB budget pressures would be to make radical changes and have more provision within the Borough. The Forum felt it had not seen evidence of

anything radical and asked whether there was a plan to bring forward any plans to start to address that issue. Kashif Nawaz replied that the plan was set out within the Commissioning Plan and additional resources had been allocated to deliver change within the transformation project. More details were due to be shared at the next meeting of the sub-group. Kashif Nawaz felt that, although pressures were expected to continue to grow, the priorities set out in the plan were the right ones.

The Forum noted that the increase in the deficit had been attributed to the impact of Covid-19, but it was unclear how that would impact the whole of HNB funding. Rachel Morgan clarified that the biggest issue was specialist provision refusing to take on new admissions due to Covid-19. There was also an impact in the way the Council worked with its partners from Health, and there was an increase in what providers could charge. The Commissioning team was working on that issue.

Paul Clark added that the huge financial challenges were recognised but that making the required significant financial improvement would not be achieved in the short term and that change would occur over the medium- to long-term. Even opening more resources in the Borough was not expected to lead to any significant savings on the budget straight away.

The Chair highlighted that this was not an issue which was exclusive to this Council as all LAs had issues with their HNB budget. The Chair felt we could be reasonably confident that we would be allowed to work towards our own plan rather than having measures enforced on us by the DfE. Rachel Morgan added that there was talk of a national review of SEND.

RESOLVED to NOTE:

1. the on-going progress against the actions contained within the SEND Commissioning Plan;
2. the current update on the HNB Budget and its medium-term financial plan which projected a £14.952m deficit at 31 March 2023; and
3. the expectation that budget proposals would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

172. Final Proposals for the 2021-22 Schools Block and Central School Services Block Elements of the Schools Budget

The Forum considered a report which presented final proposals from the Council for the 2021-22 Schools Block (SB) and Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) elements of the Schools Budget. This was based on previous decisions agreed by the Forum along with the recently received data from the October 2020 Schools Census released by the DfE. The final decision would be taken by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, but the Executive Member would draw on the recommendations made by the Forum.

Paul Clark highlighted that there had been quite a lot of movement in the additional educational needs (AEN) measures as detailed on page 67 of the report. Many measures had come down, indicating that the requirements of schools for funding were lower than they were last year. Working that through the formula, primary schools would receive £0.341m less than they did this time last year, whereas secondary schools would receive £0.055m more.

Paul Clark reminded the Forum that, any funding reductions arising from data changes for schools funded at the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL) had to be offset by a larger top up payment to reach the MPPFL. When that factor was introduced into the calculations there was another £0.174m added to the Schools

Budget. As a result of the updated data there was a £0.185m reduction in funds allocated to individual schools.

The impact of AEN data changes had had a much bigger impact on the amount of Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) now being triggered than was expected. The Forum had been asked to agree previously that the cost would be financed by schools receiving above average increases in per pupil funding, which would be six schools. It was now recommended that the Forum agreed Option 1, whereby all schools with funding increases above 2% would contribute to the cost of increasing budgets for schools experiencing below 2% increases, which would be 11 schools.

The Forum asked what was happening to schools below the National Funding Formula (NFF) – were they now up to that level, or were they still gaining an additional sum to move towards that figure over time. Paul Clark replied that there were two different calculations. The MPFFL was the minimum amount of budget that could be set in 2021-22, irrespective of what their budget was in the current year. That was the one which was costing the most amount of money and we had no discretion over that as it was set by the Government. The MFG related to the 2% increase and only equated to £28,000 in context. The change in the recommendation related to the MFG.

The Forum noted that schools had been consulted on funding and the MFG and asked whether schools would be consulted this time. Paul Clark replied that, ideally, they would do that, but there was no time as the budget had to be set on 21 January 2021. Unfortunately, Paul Clark was not anticipating this change. However, the Forum was the representative body which had been selected to make decisions on behalf of the schools.

The Forum commented that the impact on schools of Option 1 was probably fairer, and the money involved lower, so Option 1 appeared to be the “least bad” option.

Paul Clark explained that the SB budget was facing a funding shortfall of £0.227m. The good news was that the DfE had agreed that the Council could continue to add money from Council reserves to part-fund the additional costs. This would cover the SB funding shortfall.

By adding the extra funding from the council, 2021-22 would be the first year school budgets would be set at 100% of NFF values.

Regarding the Early Years Block Budget, the DfE had published guidance on 17 December 2020 which set out their intention to follow the normal approach in setting LA funding allocations in 2021-22, using actual participation rates. However, given the more recent lockdown, there was a concern that take-up numbers would be much lower than expected, which when numbers increased as could be expected, there would be a budget overspend and the income would be based on lower January participation rates. Therefore, final budget proposals for the Early Years budget would be presented to the Forum in March 2021 following more information from the DfE and better insight on the January 2021 take-up. Cherry Hall then updated the Forum based on government information just released on the morning of the meeting. The guidance confirmed children that could be funded during the spring term. This information had been circulated to all funded Early Years providers.

The Forum expressed thanks to Cherry Hall and Paul Clark for the updates.

RESOLVED

1. in its role as the representative body of schools and other providers of education and childcare, the Forum requested that the Executive Member AGREES the following for the 2021-22 Schools Budget:
 - i. the changes to budgets as set out in Table 3 of the report, in particular:
 - a. that the Schools Block DSG be set at £81.769m (line 3);
 - b. that the Central School Services Block be set at £0.912m (line 3); and
 - c. that the changes to other budgets aggregate to £6.721m (lines 8-19); and
 - ii. that the factors used in the BF Funding Formula for Schools and their relative values are the same as those used by the DfE for BF in the NFF (Annex 4 of the report);
 - iii. that the £0.227m funding shortfall arising from using NFF rates in the BF Funding Formula, will be met from Council Reserves, if permitted by the secretary of state;
 - iv. that the cost of the MFG should be financed by all schools above the 2% increase, not just those above the average increase;
 - v. that other Schools Block related grants be reset to the amounts anticipated in 2021-22 (paragraph 6.39 of the report); and
 - vi. that the resulting DfE pro forma template of the 2021-22 BF Funding Formula for Schools, as set out in Annex 5 be submitted by the 21 January deadline; and
2. as decision maker, to AGREE:
 - i. that the arrangements in place for the administration of central government grants are appropriate;
 - ii. the financing and budgets for the Growth Fund are as set out in Annex 1 of the report; and
 - iii. the budgets to be centrally managed by the council on behalf of schools, as set out in Annex 2 of the report; and
3. to NOTE that due to uncertainty on national funding arrangements for the free entitlement to early years childcare and education, that final budget proposals will now be presented to the Schools Forum in March.

173. **Consultation on 2021-22 Budget Proposals from the Council**

The Forum considered a report which presented for comment a summary of the Council's budget proposals for 2021/22 with a particular focus on the impact expected on the People Directorate, as agreed by the Executive on 15 December 2020.

Paul Clark explained that there were four key elements of the Revenue Budget: the Commitment Budget which detailed financial implications from previous decisions, Government grants and other income, service pressures and developments, and service economies.

In preparing the 2021/22 draft budget proposals, service pressures and developments for each directorate were considered. The overall proposals were based on the worst-case scenario and resulted in a potential funding gap of £6.242m.

The suggested approaches to bridge the gap were the same as usual (including an increase in Council Tax and drawing money from the Council's reserves). For this year, there was also the use of additional COVID-related Government grants.

Regarding the Capital budget, Paul Clark explained that the Council was looking at a £12.032m capital programme. The Council did not have enough funds to fully finance the project so the Council would have to borrow some money.

The Chair noted that the Forum had not previously received information about the Holly Spring FUSION project outlined in the People Directorate 2021/22 Capital Programme Bids (Annexe D of the report). The Chair questioned why that project had been put forward without having consideration alongside other projects previously mentioned at meetings of the sub-group. Rachel Morgan explained that it was an Early Help project, but Rachel was happy to bring details of that.

Action: Rachel Morgan

The Chair highlighted that the description of the proposed new SEMH facility specifically mentioned refugee children and queried why that was. Rachel Morgan clarified that, a few years ago, we had several refugee children and it was found that a lot of them had experienced significant trauma which led to the need for SEMH support.

The Forum was asked to comment on the 2021/22 budget proposals of the Executive for the People Directorate in respect of the revenue budget (Annexes A to C of the report) and the capital programme (Annexe D of the report). The Forum did not have any comments.

Councillor Barnard noted that the HNB work was a critical part of the overall work and thanked everyone who supported on the sub-group.

174. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Forum would be held at 4.30pm on 11 March 2021.

CHAIRMAN

Minutes of the Schools Forum Sub Committee

Wednesday 20th January 2021

Present: **Jenny Baker – Chair**
 Angela Fright
 Emma Ferrey
 Keith Grainger
 Richard Stok
 Marion Bent
 Liz Cole
 Kashif Nawaz
 Martin Gocke
 Gareth Barnard
 Debbie Smith – part attended

Minutes: **Sam Morgan**

Item	Comments / Action	By Whom
1	Apologies Apologies were recorded from Paul Clark, Stuart Matthews, Anneken Priesack	
2	Declarations of Interest None Richard Stok declared a family connection to Holly Spring during the course of the meeting.	
3	Confirmation of confidential location All confirmed.	
4	Minutes of previous meeting There were no amendments or comments made.	
5	Terms of Reference KN reported that the former report (December) was unanimously accepted. Terms of Reference are therefore formally adopted until August 2022.	
6	Updates (EF) SLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalised for Brakenhale and Jennetts Park. Some minor adjustments for Kings Academy and Sandy Lane. Beginning the process are Rainbow, Binfield, Harmanswater, Owlsmoor, The Pines. Q. RS – Please clarify that provision for Meadowvale would include Rainbow provision and SaLT. EF confirmed that all would be incorporated into one SLA. Task and Finish Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JB and MB have volunteered to be part of this group. EF will be leading work on the funding matrix, the aim of which is to ensure clarity over funding available for individual children. EF and JB met yesterday to review the different options and to simplify the offer. EF to circulate draft options document to Schools Forum Sub Committee. Final document will form the basis of discussion moving forward. Options are clear; minor adjustments are needed on modelling and costs. The final model will be presented on the 11th March. 	EF

Schools Forum Sub Committee – 20th January 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is hoped this this will be rolled out in September 2021, pending conversations with PC in the meantime. <p>MG noted that there are no mainstream representatives. During the meeting, KG was appointed Secondary representative. LC will email Primary Heads but if not, happy to represent. RS was appointed as non-school representative.</p>	LC
Q	<p>MB – what is the timeline? EF – these are not set but dates will be linked to Sub Group meetings. JB noted that it is imperative that there is representation from a finance perspective so that all discussions are viable. AF was appointed as Finance representative.</p>	
Q	<p>MG – what is the outline of the aims? EF – the aims are to provide consistency, transparency and to be clear on how children are funded and how that will deliver across different settings. It is not just about cost savings. KN agreed but noted that the cost elements are a consideration. EF will circulate the HNFM document discussed with JB. KN has a meeting with PC 21st January and will update the group.</p>	EF KN
Q	<p>AF – what are the expectations in terms of modelling? EF – there will be ongoing discussions with each setting, some may change some details. JB – it will also form part of the EHCP which will need to match so that schools can meet needs. EF confirmed that there will be a finance representative on the Task and Finish group.</p>	
7	<p>Outstanding SPCF Bids</p> <p>KN reported on behalf of PC. Wildridings and Kennel Lane are outstanding. There were some further queries on College Hall and Meadowvale but PC hasn't had a chance to work on this. An update will be provided after meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Q MG – Is there a time limit on spending? EF – Yes, but quite a long time as runs over 3 years. Funding has to be advertised on BF website.</p> <p>EF to consult with the two schools and update at next meeting.</p>	EF
8	<p>Project for the High Needs block</p> <p>KN shared a presentation (see attached) Proposal was sent to CMT which was acknowledged and noted. Resources have been set aside to focus on the High Needs block. Transformation Team are working on this project. KN to share more details on the transformation plan at the next meeting.</p> <p>Q KD – what are the high level priorities? KN – to address the pressures on the High Needs Block and enable delivery of the commissioning plan. KN to forward commissioning plan to SM for circulation with minutes.</p>	KN KN / SM

Q	<p>RS – Who has responsibility for SEMH Provision until a Governing Body can be formed? EF – SEMH sits within the Project Team which RM will hold responsibility for. Feasibility study deadline is next month and next steps will be sourcing a provider, site and budget. EF to provide a specific update at next meeting. KN requested that this to be a standing agenda item. JB noted that the new Commissioner should be on this group when in post.</p>	EF
9	<p>Specialist Resource Provision</p> <p>EF has spoken to Heads of both Birch Hill and Sandy Lane. There is a statutory process which takes 4 weeks and prior to that there will be an informal consultation with parents. Model letter has been sent. After February half term, the formal proposal will be launched. EF has produced a FAQs for parents. Both provisions are for ASD/other learning difficulties and will be in place in September.</p> <p>Q</p> <p>RS – How is this different? Meadowvale is underutilised. EF – Has had discussions with the Head – there are more children with ASD than can accommodate. The aim is to have an intensive EY so that progression through school could become more mainstream over time. This should be possible if the work is put in early enough.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>Q</p> <p>MG – Capital Programme Bids – Birch Hill Modular Refurbishment bids £15k, Holly Spring £120k – where does this fit with the development strategy? KN – was not aware of this but needs discussion with the school particularly if there are revenue implications. All developments are done in partnership with the LA. All similar settings will have an SLA.</p> <p>Q</p> <p>RS – Please clarify specification for Holly Spring. KN – Unable to answer but will update at the next meeting. RS declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p>KD – It is essential to have sight of the budgets (page 110 in the Forum papers). KN – Any project that does appear in the Schools Forum will have been part of the Sub Committee first.</p> <p>KD – The aim of this group is to provide support KN to enable prioritising of work. JB asked KN if he needed anything further from the group. KN thanked the group. By the next meeting it is hoped that we will be better placed to understand the needs of schools.</p>	KN
	<p>Next meeting: Wednesday 10th March at 15:15. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:24pm.</p>	

Schools Forum Sub Committee

Action Plan

Item	Action	Responsibility	Completed Yes/No	Comments
06	EF to send draft document to MB.	EF		
06	EF to circulate the HNFM document discussed with JB.	EF		
06	KN to update following meeting with PC 21 st January.	KN		
07	EF to consult with the two schools and update at next meeting.	EF		
08	KN to share more details on the transformation plan at the next meeting.	KN		
08	KN to forward commissioning plan to SM for circulation with minutes.	KN	Yes	
08	EF to provide a specific update on SEMH provision at next meeting.	EF		
10	KN to clarify specification for Holly Spring School.	KN		

**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
11 MARCH 2021**

2020-21 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT Executive Director of People

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update School Forum on the 2020-21 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), attached as Annex A, to be submitted to the Executive Member and subsequently published on the Bracknell Forest Council Website, as required by the authority's statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- **That Schools Forum NOTES the attached CSA**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 Statutory Guidance sets out the Local Authority's statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare. To meet this duty Bracknell Forest Council is required to submit a report to elected council members on how it is meeting its duty and to make this report available to parents.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Section 6 and 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011) of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and to secure early years provision free of charge.
- 5.2 Part B of the Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out how Local Authorities should meet this duty, including the requirement to report to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.
- 5.3 In making an assessment of the sufficiency of the local childcare market, the CSA draws on data from the Office for National Statistics, labour market statistics from the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) and census data, Health data, local statistical data, information provided by local childcare providers, and a survey of parents in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.4 Currently evidence suggests that there is sufficient capacity borough wide, however, it is difficult to assess the impact of Coronavirus on the supply of and demand for childcare while in lockdown. Data collection for the 2021-22 CSA will start in April 2021 and will include work to understand what long term impact the response to Coronavirus has had on parents need for childcare and on the sustainability of childcare providers.
- 5.5 Based on challenges identified in the CSA, the priorities for childcare in 2021-22 are:
- Identifying and understanding the impact of Coronavirus on parents and their childcare needs. Parental demand is the ultimate driver of the childcare market.

- Identifying and understanding the impact of Coronavirus on providers so that the Council has a clear picture of the current supply of childcare in Bracknell Forest and where there is an under or over supply of childcare.
 - Working with providers to ensure they remain sustainable and are adapting affectively to changes in the childcare market.
 - Improving the quantity and quality of data used in the management of the childcare market in Bracknell Forest and in meeting the Councils statutory duties to provide sufficient childcare for working parents and secure early years provision free of charge.
 - Engage with OFSTED registered childminders to register for the free entitlements.
 - Ensure Job Centre Plus has information on childcare entitlements for working parents and 'how to find childcare'
- 5.6 The CSA will be submitted to the Executive Member for information and subsequently published on the BFC website where it will be available and accessible to parents and childcare providers.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Legal context underpinning the recommendations is set out in the report

Director of Resources

- 6.2 The revenue related cost of delivering the CSA will need to be financed from within the Dedicated Schools Grant income where sufficient funds are expected to be available.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not Required

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 BFC will be at risk of not meeting its statutory duty if it does not submit the CSA to the executive member and publish the report where it is accessible to parents.
- 6.5 If BFC does not complete a sufficiency assessment; development of childcare may not be placed in the correct area, may not meet the needs of working parents and may destabilise the local childcare market.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 In preparing for the CSA, data on current capacity, vacancies and costs were gathered from providers of funded childcare in Bracknell Forest. Parents of children resident in or accessing childcare in Bracknell Forest were consulted on their need for childcare in October and November 2020.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Data from providers is collected via the Provider Self Update portal. Parents were consulted via an online survey which was advertised via childcare providers, the BFC website, the Family Information Service website and social media.

Representations Received

- 7.3 321 parents responded to the consultation, an increase of 209 responses compared to the previous survey in October 2019.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

Childcare Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/5/contents/enacted>

Childcare Act 2016

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Cherry Hall, Early Years Service Lead 01344 352811

cherry.hall@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

David Allais, Early Years Officer 01344 354027

EHBS@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020

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1. Overall assessment and summary

1.1. About Childcare Sufficiency Assessments

Our Council is required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents'. This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) has been prepared in order to meet this duty.

The statutory guidance sets out the intended outcomes of this duty as 'parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high-quality settings' and that Local Authorities are required by legislation to 'Secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).'

This report assesses sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, and feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority. The number of children in these groups fluctuates across the year, for example the numbers in funded early years provision being at their lowest in autumn after the school intake of 4-year-olds and increasing across spring to the highest numbers in summer.

Information about childcare sufficiency is used to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

1.2. Overall Sufficiency in Bracknell Forest

Assessment of childcare sufficiency for this report normally uses data gathered in the summer term. Demand for childcare varies across the year, with demand at its highest in the summer term and lowest in the autumn term following the intake of 4-year-olds into maintained schools. The response to COVID-19 has affected the supply of and demand for childcare in the summer and autumn terms 2020 and consequently the data available in the preparation of the 2020 CSA. Data on the demand and supply of childcare in the summer term 2020 has been particularly badly affected and this report uses data from the summer term 2019 where data for the summer 2020 is not available or sufficiently robust.

Data sources include data from childcare providers, a parent survey, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) databases.

Analysis of the data indicates that:

- for the financial year 2020/21 there is sufficient childcare in Bracknell Forest in the following categories:
 - Free entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds
 - Universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds
 - Extended 30 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds of working parents
 - Early years childcare outside the free entitlements
- There is currently sufficient childcare across Bracknell Forest to meet future demand for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 in these categories.
- There is insufficient evidence to conclude that there is enough childcare in the following categories:
 - Childcare before and after school
 - Childcare during school holidays
 - Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The response to COVID-19 has resulted in providers reducing the supply of spaces or closing provision, and in a reduction in the demand for places due to changes in parents working arrangements or out of concern around infection. Whether these changes to both demand and supply are temporary or permanent is currently unknown.

1.3. Our plans for childcare

Bracknell Forest Councils priorities for planning childcare in 2021-22 are:

1. Identify and understand the impact of Coronavirus on parents and their childcare needs
 - Parental demand for childcare is the ultimate driver of the childcare market. Many parents have seen a change in their ways of working and their working patterns with the national response to Coronavirus. Research will be undertaken to identify the degree to which these changes are permanent and their impact on demand for childcare.
2. Identify and understand the impact of Coronavirus on providers
 - Many questions around the supply of childcare in Bracknell Forest will only be known once the market returns to 'normal'. Working with providers the Councils needs to:
 - i. identify which providers operating in the summer term 2020 remain open, if providers have changed their childcare offer, any changes in costs, the supply of childcare available
 - ii. understand if there is an under or oversupply in any part of the childcare market, which area in Bracknell Forest is affected and what opportunities exist in the local market for new providers.

3. Working with providers to ensure they remain sustainable and understand and adapt to the changes in the childcare market. We will continue to offer business support to those providers who need it.
4. Improving data on all aspects of the childcare market including capacity, vacancies, waiting lists and costs. A particular focus will be childcare for school age children and holiday clubs. The improved data collection will be included in the 2021-22 CSA.
5. Actively promoting the Bracknell Forest Local Directory, which holds information on all childcare in Bracknell Forest. This includes the use of social media, local advertising e.g. buses and Town & Country, school newsletter and websites, Family hubs and other BFC services, Job Centre and Health Visitors.

2. The Response to Coronavirus

Summer term 2020

In April 2020 the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance setting out the arrangements for securing sufficient childcare places in the summer term 2020. This guidance set out that:

- local authorities should initially aim to secure the required childcare places by using places that are already funded through early years Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- the priority for the early years sector was first and foremost to ensure sufficient childcare for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers
- this could include moving children between providers where one provider had closed, and another had empty DSG-funded places
- in many cases this could be done without additional cost to the Local Authority
- in some cases, ensuring sufficient childcare could incur additional costs if the provider staying open could not do so in a financially sustainable way

Local Authorities continued to receive their expected funding and the expectation was that in most instances this would be sufficient for the summer term payments to providers.

In response to this guidance, in the summer term 2020 early years providers in Bracknell Forest were funded based on the free entitlement hours they expected to claim prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Providers who remained open and accepted vulnerable children or children of keyworkers from closed settings and as a result the number of children attending their setting exceeded the funded places for the term were able to claim additional funding.

The Family Information Service (FIS) supported keyworkers worker parents seeking alternative childcare where their usual childcare provider was unable to offer or where they needed to attend one provider only rather than the usual pattern of shared care (access to 2 or more providers). In most cases Bracknell Forest Council was able to place children in already funded places.

A huge amount of work was undertaken by the Early Years sector to support childcare for keyworkers workers and vulnerable children. Attendance data has been collected and collated by BFC Early Years team and submitted to the DfE weekly throughout the pandemic.

The Early Years team has been in contact with providers individually and via TEAMS meetings regularly since March 2020 to offer advice and support. Assist in interpreting DfE guidance, undertaking risk assessments, accessing PPE, working with community venues and supporting where guidance differed creating confusion.

Autumn term 2020

In July 2020 the DfE issued additional guidance for funding in the Autumn term 2020. This guidance set out the following:

- From start of Autumn term 2020 Local Authorities should continue to fund open early years providers at broadly the same levels that they would have expected had there not been a COVID-19 outbreak
- Local authorities should not fund providers which are closed without a public health reason
- Local authorities might, for example, use the numbers of children in places in the previous Autumn term to inform funding levels

BFC issued sector specific guidance on the top-up funding to providers in July 2020 which set out the following:

Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers

- No change to the normal funding process
- All providers will be paid for the number of free early education hours claimed in Autumn 2020 at their appropriate funding rates
- Providers who claimed more free early education hours in Autumn 2019 were paid the difference as a top-up
- All top-up hours paid at the providers 3 and 4-year-old funding rate for the Autumn term 2020
- 60% of the forecast top-up was paid in July 2020 as part of the forecast payment

Childminders

- No change to the normal funding process
- Numbers of funded children attending a childminding setting are very low and vary termly therefore the approach is to fund childminders for participation in the Autumn term 2020 and not base funding on Autumn 2019

Maintained and Academy School Nursery classes

- No change to the normal funding process
- School nursery classes receive annual indicative funding statements based on actual hours delivered each term over the last year (April to March). There is then a termly positive or negative adjustment dependent on actual hours delivered
- To maintain funding at the level normally expected, changes were only made if more free early education hours were claimed in Autumn 2020 than in Autumn 2019

Surveys were completed with providers to ascertain whether any were experiencing sustainability concerns related to Covid-19. 74 responses were received, 34 from group providers, 40 from childminders. 2 group providers reported financial difficulties. The Early Years team worked with the settings reporting difficulties and both providers have remained sustainable.

In the autumn term all PVI providers and Childminders were invited to a fully funded business training course which included a model for disaster recovery.

3. Demand for childcare

3.1. Population of early years children

In total, there are 7,169 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare. The Council has a statutory duty to provide funded early years provision for all 3-and 4-year-olds, equivalent to 3,004 children (although some 4-year-olds will have started reception) and the most deprived of 2-year-olds, currently estimated at around 224 children. Table 1 shows the total number of children by age in Bracknell Forest, while Figure 1 shows these numbers at a Ward level.

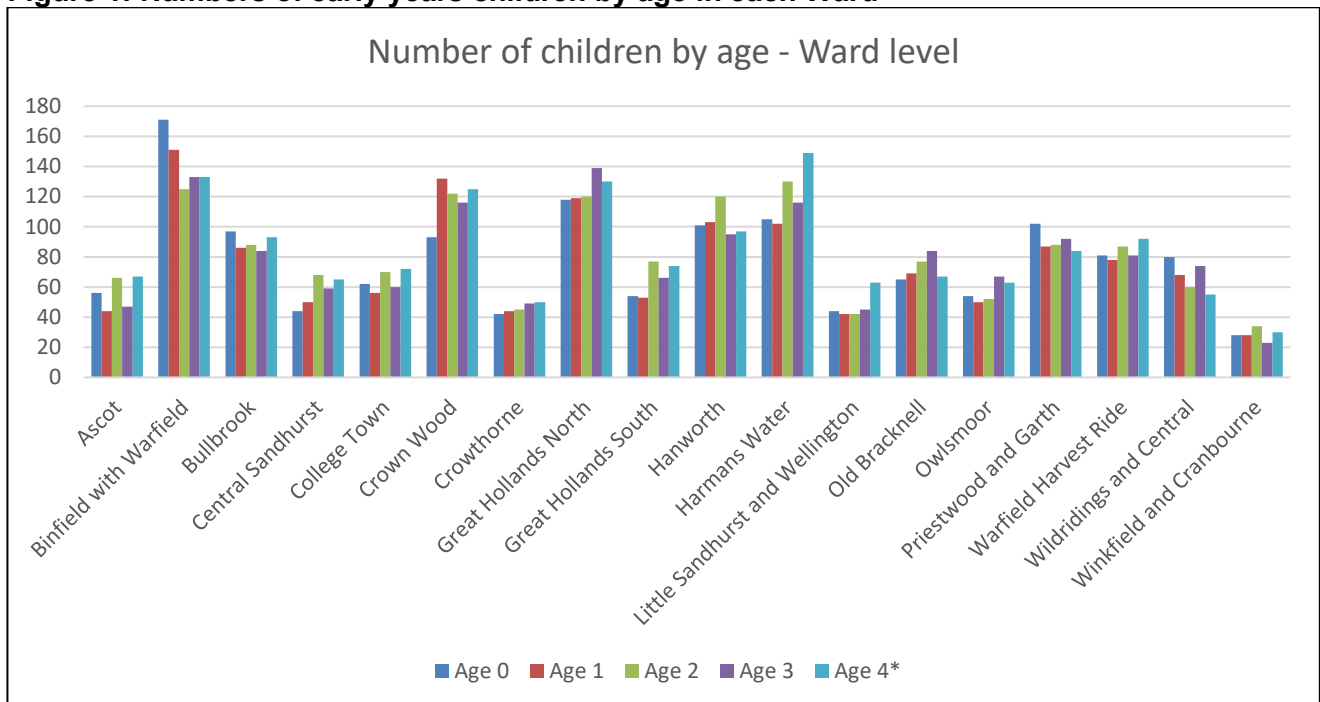
Table 1: Numbers of early years children by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	1397
Age 1	1362
Age 2	1471
Age 3	1430
Age 4*	1509

Sources: ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019 & NHS South, Central & West Birth Data

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

Figure 1: Numbers of early years children by age in each Ward



Sources: ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019 & NHS South, Central & West Birth Data

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

3.2. Population of school age children

In total there are 11,480 children aged 5-11, and 4,847 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2: Numbers of school age children by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	1495
Age 6	1543
Age 7	1605
Age 8	1683
Age 9	1718
Age 10	1687
Age 11	1749
Age 12	1668
Age 13	1648
Age 14	1531

Source: ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019

Detailed information about the school age population in Bracknell Forest can be found in the School Places Plan which is available on the Bracknell Forest website [Schools and learning strategies and policies | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning-strategies-and-policies)

3.3. Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with SEND are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) in our local authority is:

Table 3: Children with an EHCP by age

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	2
Primary school (reception to year six)	331
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	479

Source: BFC Internal data as at 1 September 2020

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from difficulties being identified to an EHCP being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEND but do not have an EHCP. In the summer term 2019 there were 178 children aged 0-4 years known to the Child Development Centre (CDC), all of whom have additional needs which vary significantly from mild additional needs to severe, complex, and lifelong needs.

3.4. Characteristics of children in our area

There are two characteristics of children in our area which must be considered when assessing childcare sufficiency - deprivation and parents working status.

3.4.1. Deprivation

Growing up in a deprived household can limit a child's ability to access childcare. These limits include the direct cost of childcare and the indirect costs such as transport. Children who meet financial criteria that are indicative of living in a deprived household can receive additional funding to improve their access to childcare. This funding includes two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (3- and 4-year-olds not in school) and Pupil Premium (children in school). The numbers of children qualifying for this funding in our local authority in the summer term 2020 are:

Table 4: Children eligible for additional funding through financial criteria

<i>Funding type</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
2-year-old Funding	162
Early Years Pupil Premium	159
Pupil Premium	1,832

Source: BFC school census January 2020 and Early Years funding data Summer term 2020

3.4.2. Parents working status

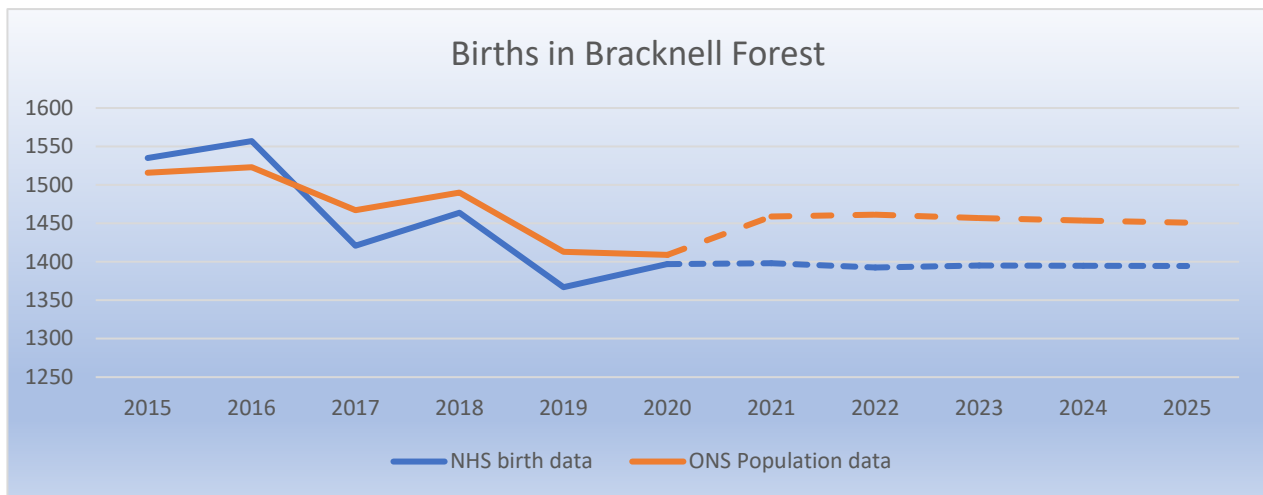
To qualify for the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds, both parents in a household or one parent in a single parent household must be in employment.¹ In Bracknell Forest approximately 72% of families meet this requirement.

3.5. Changes to the population of children in our area

In the summer term 2020 the extended free entitlement was claimed by 953 children or 48% of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing the early years free entitlements, an increase of 3% from 2019. The average number of extended hours claimed per week was 12.98 hours, an increase from 11.94 in 2019. However, based on HMRC tax and benefit data, approximately 72% of families in Bracknell Forest should be eligible for the extended entitlement and uptake of the entitlement is therefore significantly lower than number of potentially eligibility children.

The 2019 CSA used NHS birth data to predict birth rates in 2020 and 2021. For the 2020, historic data from 2015 and future projections to 2025 using both the NHS data and ONS data are provided in figure 2.

¹ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage and less than £100,000 per annum

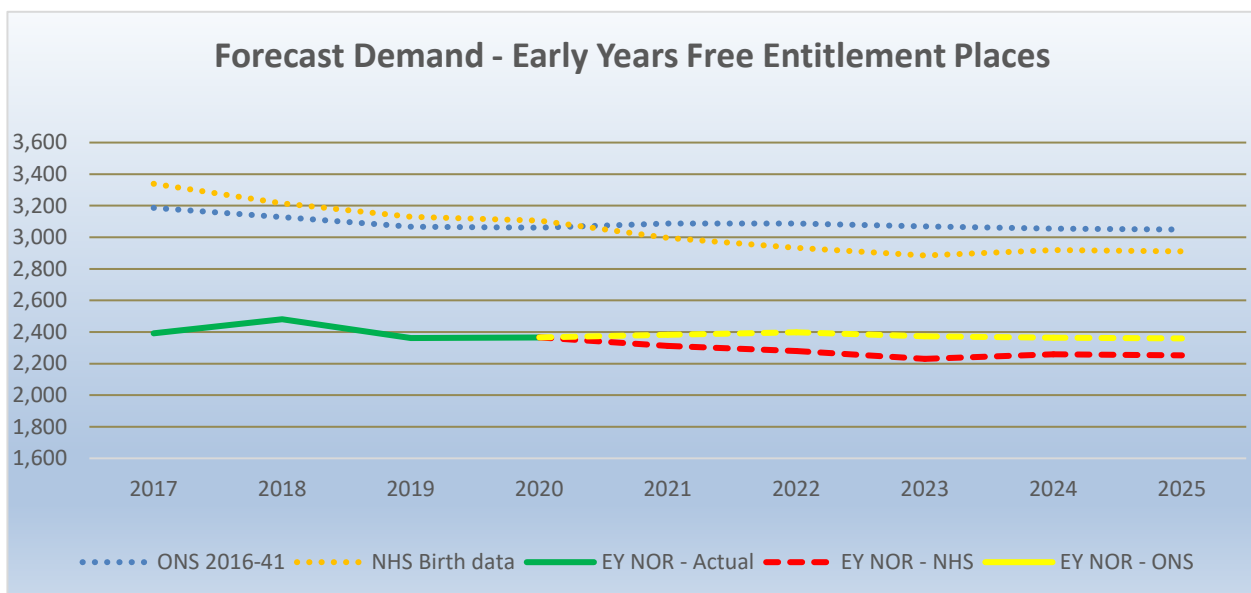
Figure 2: Births in Bracknell Forest

Sources: NHS South, Central & West Birth Data

3.6. Future demand for early years free entitlement places

Future demand for early years free entitlement places for the period 2022 to 2025 can be estimated using population forecasts and the current average rate of free entitlement uptake. This report uses a population forecast published by the ONS and a forecast extrapolated from NHS birth data.

In 2025 the population of 3 and 4-year-olds in Bracknell Forest is forecast to be 3,019 using the ONS data or 2,911 using NHS birth data. When combined with the current average rate of uptake for the free entitlements for 3 and 4-year-old of 77%, the forecast demand in the summer term 2025 is calculated to be 2,360 using the ONS data or 2,252 using the NHS birth data, illustrated in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Forecast demand for 3- & 4-year-old free entitlement places

Sources: NHS South, Central & West Birth Data, ONS Population Projection 2016-41, BFC internal data

4. Supply of childcare

Data on available childcare capacity in Bracknell Forest is normally collected during the summer term. With the part or total closure of setting in the Summer term 2020 in response to COVID-19, data on childcare capacity was not collected. This report therefore uses capacity data from the summer term 2019.

4.1. Number of early years providers and places

In the summer term 2020 there were 222 childcare providers in our local authority, offering an estimated 4,998² early years childcare places.

Table 5: Early years providers and places by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of places</i>
Childminders*	159	947
Nursery classes in schools	18	1142
PVI providers	45	2909

Source: Provider survey summer 2019, BFC data and OFSTED registration data

**number of childminder places is an estimate based on available data; some places are also available for older children.*

A place is defined as 15 hours of childcare a week, the maximum number of funded hours a week a child can access via the universal entitlement. The table above records the maximum number of 15 hours places a provider is registered to offer in a week. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places, and some will be allocated to children accessing places outside of the free entitlements.

A child attending for 30 hours a week as part of the extended entitlement will take up 2 places and a child attending all week at a full day care setting will take up 3 to 4 places.

4.2. Early years vacancies

A vacancy is a place that could realistically be used by a child and is available for a minimum of 15 hours a week.

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. In general, vacancy rates are at their lowest in summer and highest in the autumn, when children move to school.

² Data from the 2019 Provider Survey. Due to regulations on staff to child ratios and minimum space requirements, total childcare capacity in BFC fluctuates depending on the mix of children accessing childcare. Capacity data is correct at the point of collection only.

Data on vacancy rates are normally gathered in summer as this provides the most accurate indicator of available capacity in the market. The disruption caused by COVID-19 impacted heavily on the numbers accessing early years places and has rendered the collection of vacancy rates meaningless for the summer term 2020. The data presented below in Table 11 is therefore a repeat of the summer term 2019 data.

Table 6: Early Years Vacancies by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Total number of vacancies</i>
Childminders	185	33
Nursery classes in schools	18	49
PVI providers	47	386

Source: Internal BFC data and OFSTED registration data, vacancies as reported by providers to the council in the summer term 2019

4.3. Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 56 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 22 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 159 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Table 7: School Age provision and places

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	26 clubs	Insufficient data
After-school club – primary school	30 clubs	Insufficient data
Breakfast club – secondary school	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
After-school club – secondary school	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
Childminders*	159	Insufficient data
Holiday club	22 clubs	Insufficient data

Source: BFC data and OFSTED registration data

Not all provision of childcare for school age children is registered with OFSTED, and changes to the OFSTED registration requirements mean that the number of school age children looked after by a provider is no longer indicated in their OFSTED registration. In normal circumstances these factors make gathering data on the availability of childcare for school age children challenging. A situation exacerbated by the response to COVID-19, which has seen much of the childcare for school age children before and after school and in the holidays remain closed for most of the period covered by this report. Consequently, information on the number of registered places for school age provision is not available.

There is insufficient data available on childcare provision in secondary schools for inclusion in this table. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

5. Funded Early Education

5.1. Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to the 570 hours of free childcare per year, equivalent to 15 hours a week over 38 weeks, from the term after the child's 3rd birthday until the term after their 5th birthday or they start reception class in school. This is known as the universal 15 hours entitlement
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working³, could be [entitled](#) to an additional 570 hours of free childcare per year, equivalent to 15 hours a week over 38 weeks, from the term after the child's 3rd birthday until the term after their 5th birthday or they start reception class in school. This is known as the extended 30 hours entitlement
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low-income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic [criteria](#), are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare a year, equivalent to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks. Nationally, about 40% of 2-year-olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement and may choose to split them between more than one provider. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

5.2. Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In Bracknell Forest, for the summer term 2020, 15.5 % of 2-year-olds or 229 children were entitled to funded early education for economic reasons.

5.3. Take up of funded early education

The take up of early years places is measured in the summer term of each year, with the data submitted by providers as part of the free entitlement funding process. Due to the lockdown in response to COVID-19, the data submitted by providers in the Summer term 2020 is missing children who would normally have started accessing funded early education after the start of term and the take up of funded early education is therefore lower than would normally be expected.

³ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage and less than £100,000 per annum

The table 13 sets out the number of children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority in summer 2020 and the proportion of the eligible population this represents. Four-year olds who have started reception class are not eligible for funded early education.

Table 8: Take up of funded early education by age

<i>Age</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>% of eligible children</i>
Age 2	168	73%
Age 3	1358	92%
Age 4	840	52%

Source: BFC Internal data, DWP eligibility data and ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019.

Some children will take up funded early education places in neighbouring authorities. In Bracknell Forest a total of 206 children resident in neighbouring authorities access their funded early education in Bracknell Forest. Figure 14 provides a breakdown of these children and their resident local authority.

Table 9: Children resident outside BF attending BFC EY provision

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Children</i>
Basingstoke and Deane	2
Buckinghamshire	2
Elmbridge	1
Guildford	2
Hart	43
Hillingdon	2
Hounslow	1
Reading	1
Runnymede	8
Rushmoor	9
Slough	2
South Somerset	1
Spelthorne	1
Surrey Heath	47
Walsall	1
Waverley	1
Wokingham	82
Total	206

Source: BFC Free entitlement funding data

5.4. 30 hours extended entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hours extended entitlement place apply for this online through the Government's [Childcare Choices website](#). The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare

and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system issues the parent with a code which they present to their chosen childcare provider to claim the funding. The provider validates the code through the Councils funding software prior to confirming that the child can take up 30 hours extended entitlement places. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare. A comparison of the number accessing 30 hours free entitlement for the last 3 years is set out in table 14.

Table 10: 3 & 4-year-olds accessing 30 hours extended entitlement

<i>Term</i>	<i>Total funded 3- & 4-year-olds</i>	<i>Accessing 30 hours</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Summer 2018	2481	937	37.8%
Summer 2019	2362	978	41.4%
Summer 2020	2366	1055	44.6%

Source: BFC Free entitlement funding data

5.5. Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education places (via the Local Authority). They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places. The table below sets out the number of providers offering funded places and the numbers offering each type of funded place.

Table 11: Providers offering

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>2-year-olds</i>	<i>Universal 15 hours</i>	<i>Extended 30 hours</i>
Childminders	100	94	100	100
Nursery classes in schools	18	0	18	17
PVI providers	45	43	45	43

Source: BFC funding data

6. Prices

6.1. Prices of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings.⁴ There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g., lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices. This data was not collected in the summer term 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 on providers, data from the summer term 2019 is provided below.

Table 12: Average childcare prices – early years

<i>Price per hour</i>	<i>Private, voluntary and independent nurseries</i>	<i>Nursery classes in schools</i>	<i>Childminders</i>
0- and 1-year olds	£6.37	n/a	£5.00
2-year-olds	£7.04	n/a	£5.00
3- and 4-year-olds	£5.74	£5.00	£5.00

Source: cost data supplied by EY providers – summer term 2019

6.2. Prices of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per session, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Table13: Average childcare prices – school age

<i>Setting and price unit</i>	<i>Price</i>
Breakfast club per day	£4.34
After-school club per session	£10.44
School age childminder per hour	£5.11
Holiday club per week	£130.00

Source: cost data from the Bracknell Forest Local Directory

⁴ Details of how we collect this data is provided in section 10: Methodology

7. Quality of childcare in our area

7.1. OFSTED inspection grades

Childcare providers offering the free entitlements must be registered with and be inspected by the appropriate regulatory body, OFSTED or the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

OFSTED graded outcomes are: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.⁵ The Independent Schools Inspectorate graded outcomes are: 'excellent', 'good', 'sound' or 'unsatisfactory'.

Schools with nursery classes have an overall inspection grade for the school and most also have a separate early years grade.

Due to COVID-19, no routine inspections were carried out since March 2020 and during the period covered by this report. The data provided below is the most current data available.

As detailed in the table below, as of the summer term 2020, 223 of 229 providers in Bracknell Forest, equivalent to 97%, achieved a good or outstanding OFSTED rating in their last inspection. Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation. Nationally the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection is 96%.⁶

Table 14: OFSTED inspection grades by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>	<i>Total achieving good or outstanding</i>
Childminders	172	171
Nursery classes in maintained schools *	13	10
Nursery classes in academies ⁷	4	0
PVI providers	44	42

Source: OFSTED

* early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

⁵ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

⁶ For more information see [Main findings: childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2020 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2020) (www.gov.uk)

⁷ Nursery classes in academies are awaiting their first inspection

8. Parent Survey

A survey was undertaken in September and October 2020 to gather parents and carers experience and needs in relation to childcare. The survey was aimed at parents currently accessing or looking to access childcare in Bracknell Forest. A total of 321 responses were received. A summary of relevant points and parent's comments are provided below. All percentages refer to the proportion of answers to the specific question, not of the total respondents. Specific comments from parents have been withheld.

8.1. Suitable Childcare

Respondents were asked how easy it was to find suitable childcare for their child or children.

Table 15: Finding suitable childcare

<i>Category</i>	<i>Very easy</i>	<i>Fairly easy</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Fairly difficult</i>	<i>Very difficult</i>
Early years childcare	103 (38%)	122 (45%)	14 (5%)	22 (8%)	8 (3%)
School Age – before school	44 (31%)	60 (42%)	16 (13%)	11 (8%)	9 (6%)
School age – after school	40 (29%)	65 (47%)	19 (14%)	6 (4%)	9 (7%)
School Age – holiday care	26 (19%)	67 (50%)	22 (16%)	9 (7%)	11 (8%)

Comparing the percentage of respondents in 2020 reply fairly difficult or very difficult to those in 2019 we see a decrease for early years childcare and an increase for all school age categories.

Table 16: Finding suitable childcare 2019 to 2020

<i>Category</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Early years childcare	17%	11%
School Age – before school	8%	20%
School age – after school	13%	15%
School Age – holiday care	15%	20%

Respondents who replied fairly difficult or very difficult were asked to provide a reason for their response, these included:

- Drop off and collection times did not meet parents needs
- No childminders with spaces that do school drop off/pick up
- Only term time childcare care available – childcare required all year
- No early year's childcare places available in the required area
- Too expensive
- No suitable childcare for a child with additional needs
- No afterschool club and/or holiday club in right location
- Holiday clubs did not cater for the required age group

8.2. Access to childcare

Parents were asked if, at any point in the past 12 months, they had been unable to access childcare when they or their child needed it.

Table 17: Unable to access childcare

<i>Category</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Early Years Childcare	52 (20%)	213 (80%)
School age – before school	20 (15%)	112 (85%)
School age – after school	23 (18%)	106 (82%)
School age – Holiday care	23 (18%)	102 (82%)

Comparing the percentage of respondents in 2020 reply Yes to those in 2019 we see an increase in all categories.

Table 18: Unable to access childcare 2019 to 2020

<i>Category</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Early Years Childcare	12%	20%
School age – before school	11%	15%
School age – after school	16%	18%
School age – Holiday care	19%	18%

Respondents who replied Yes were asked to provide a reason for their response, the overwhelming response was the impact of COVID-19 on the availability of childcare, response included:

- Childcare closed due to COVID-19 / lockdown
- Only available childcare term time only – all year required
- Wrap around care not available or suitable
- Suitable childcare for child with additional needs not available

8.3. Preferred location

20 parents indicated that they were not able to find childcare in their preferred location, with 17 respondents indicating their preferred location as set out in table 23.

Table 19: Unable to access childcare 2019 to 2020

<i>Location</i>	<i>No of responses</i>
Ascot	1
Binfield	2
Crown Wood	1
Crowthorne	3
Great Hollands	1
Harmans Water	1
Little Sandhurst	3
Sandhurst	1
Warfield	2
Wildridings	1
Winkfield	1

8.4. Information source: Availability

Respondents were asked to select all the sources of information they used to find out what childcare was available in their area. The responses for 2019 and 2020 are provided below.

Table 20: Childcare availability information source

<i>Information Source</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Local Authority or FIS website	33 (13%)	88 (12%)
Children's Centres	18 (7%)	29 (4%)
School	37 (14%)	80 (11%)
Library	8 (3%)	9 (1%)
Health services	2 (1%)	7 (1%)
Local advertising	20 (8%)	48 (7%)
Internet	44 (17%)	156 (22%)
Social media	39 (15%)	107 (15%)
Friends & family	52 (20%)	167 (24%)
Employer	4 (2%)	4 (1%)

It is worth noting that where parents have indicated that their source of information was the internet, parents could be using the FIS website without being aware of it.

8.5. Information source: Quality

Respondents were asked to indicate how they checked the quality of a childcare provision (multiple responses were allowed). The table 25 compares responses from 2019 and 2020.

Table 21: Information sources – quality of childcare

<i>Information source</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Visited the setting	82 (27%)	253 (28%)
Word of mouth	68 (23%)	181 (20%)
OFSTED reports	56 (19%)	165 (18%)
Looked at the providers website	51 (17%)	167 (18%)
Reviews on the internet	41 (14%)	124 (14%)

8.6. Improving the provision of information

Respondents were asked for ideas on how Bracknell Forest could make it easier for parents to find out about what childcare is available. These responses are summarised below together with feedback from BFC.

Table 22: Improving information availability

<i>Response received</i>	<i>Bracknell Forest Council Feedback</i>
Ask schools to advertise childminders	BFC is working with schools to promote the Bracknell Forest Local Directory on the school website and newsletters
Have a dedicated site that's easy to use with clear information on the different providers	The Bracknell Forest Local Directory provides a comprehensive listing of childcare in Bracknell Forest.
Leaflets or booklets with all providers and what they offer – sent to every home/distributed by health visitors	This would not be cost effective; parents are encouraged to make use of the Bracknell Forest Local Directory
Encourage childminders to keep their details and availability up to date	All childcare providers in Bracknell Forest are regularly reminded to keep their details and vacancies up to date
Use social media	Work is underway to increase the social media presence of the Family Information Service and Bracknell Forest Local Directory

The Family Information Service has a website which publishes information on all available childcare in Bracknell Forest, including for children with special educational needs and disabilities. This website, known as the Bracknell Forest Local Directory, can be accessed here

<https://bracknellforest.fsd.org.uk/kb5/bracknell/directory/home.page>

BFC is actively promoting the Bracknell Forest Local Directory, including advertising on the back of buses in Bracknell Forest, through school newsletter and websites, family hubs, adverts in 'Town and Country' the local free newspaper, posters in local shops and via other services provided by BFC.

Further work is underway to improve the visibility of the Local Directory on social media and the use of innovative technology to link parents to available childcare via a smartphone application is being investigated.

9. Data by electoral ward

The data provided in this section reflects the best available data in the Summer term 2020. Population data was sourced from the ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019.

9.1. Early years free entitlement

Section 9 provides data on population and childcare capacity at a Ward. Below is a summary of the number of early years providers, the estimated early years capacity and uptake of free entitlement places per Ward.

Table 23: Ward level summary of early years places

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated Capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Ascot	9	224	97.5
Binfield with Warfield	14	420	219.2
Bullbrook	14	217	164.6
Central Sandhurst	4	82	58
College Town	18	596	341
Crown Wood	13	239	120.1
Crowthorne	8	182	126.2
Great Hollands North	12	282	168.3
Great Hollands South	5	116	89.2
Hanworth	21	407	289.5
Harmans Water	18	302	173
Little Sandhurst and Wellington	7	165	93.6
Old Bracknell	17	228	120.6
Owlsmoor	12	179	123.1
Priestwood and Garth	18	411	262
Warfield Harvest Ride	20	315	167.9
Wildridings and Central	7	371	242.4
Winkfield and Cranbourne	5	262	181.4
Total	222	4998	3037.6

9.2. Ascot

9.2.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Ascot in the summer term 2020 aged 0 to 14 was 965, of which:

- 280 are aged under 5
- 144 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 504 are aged 5 to 11
- 181 are aged 12 to 14

9.2.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 27. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 24: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	6	32	6.8
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	3	192	90.7
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	3	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

*childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.2.3. Early years free entitlement funding

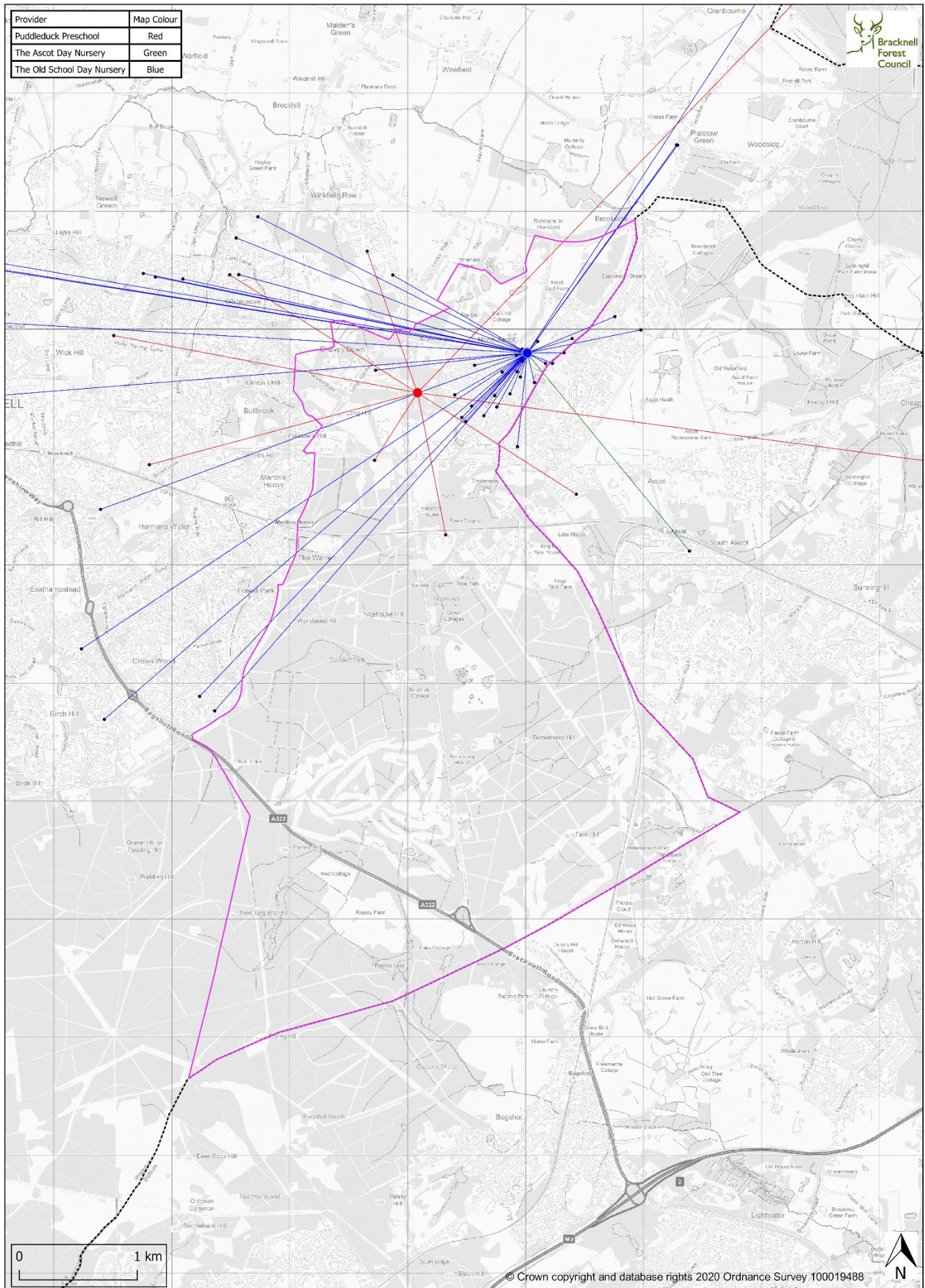
A total of 64 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Ascot in the Summer term 2020. Of these 24 (37%) were resident in Ascot, 28 (44%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 12 (19%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 25: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ascot	1	14	9	24
Other Bracknell Forest Wards	1	15	12	28
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	9	2	12
Total	3	38	23	64

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 4.

Figure 4: Attending Children Distribution - Ascot

9.3. Binfield with Warfield

9.3.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Binfield with Warfield in the summer term 2020 aged 0 to 14 was 1,812, of which:

- 713 are aged under 5
- 266 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 852 are aged 5 to 11
- 247 are aged 12 to 14

9.3.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 29. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 26: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	9	54	17.2
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	1	52	26.7
PVI providers	4	314	175.3
After school club	5	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	5	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	5	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

*childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.3.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 162 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Binfield with Warfield in the Summer term 2020. Of these 69 (43%) were resident in Binfield with Warfield, 70 (43%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 12 (14%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

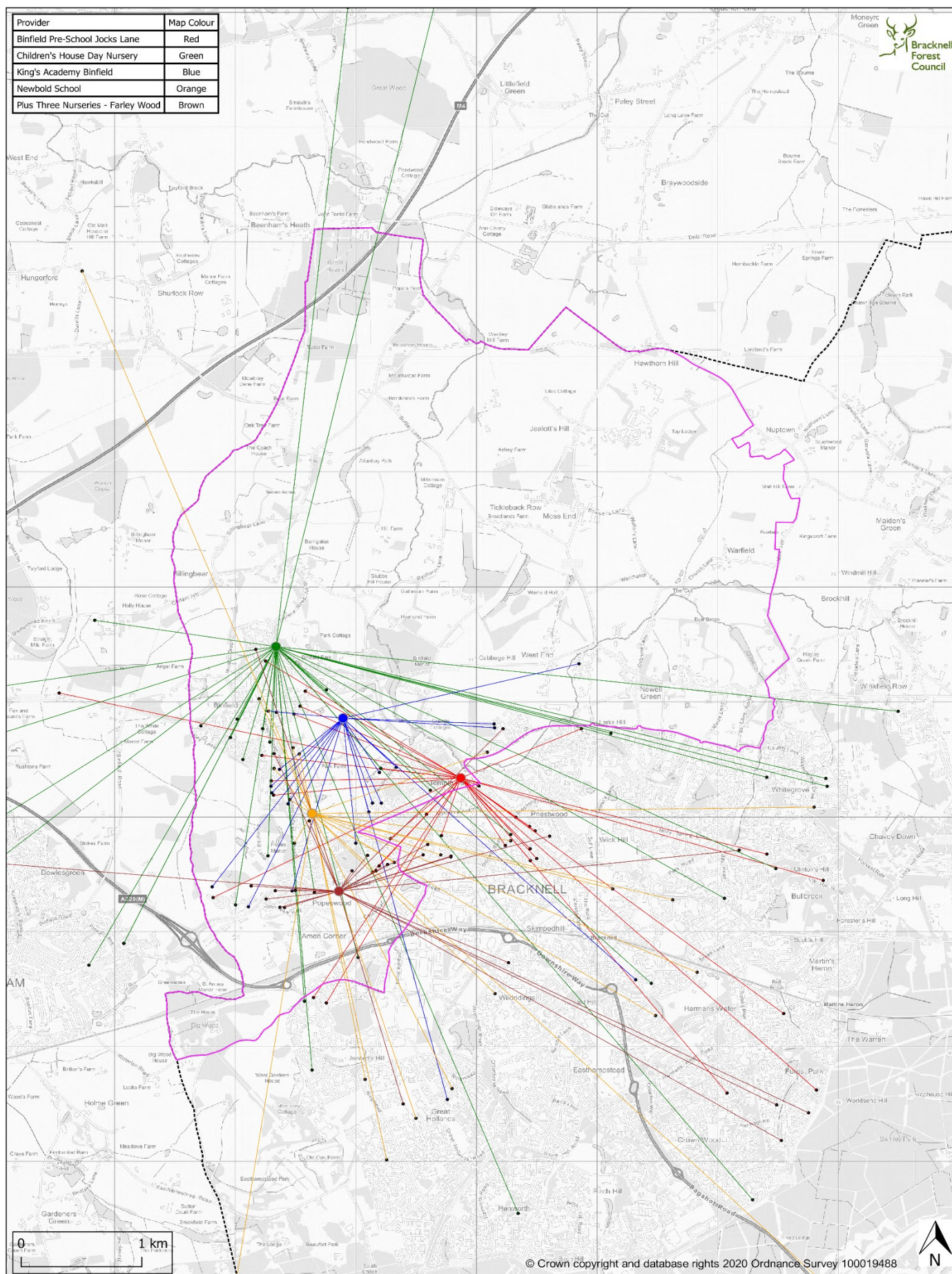
Table 27: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Binfield with Warfield	3	38	28	69
Other Bracknell Forest wards	9	37	24	70
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	19	4	23
Total	12	94	56	162

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 5

Figure 5: Attending Children Distribution - Binfield with Warfield



9.4. Bullbrook

9.4.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Bullbrook in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,303, of which:

- 448 are aged under 5
- 177 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 668 are aged 5 to 11
- 187 are aged 12 to 14

9.4.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 31. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 28: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	11	61	7.8
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	52	57
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	2	114	99.8
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	0	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.4.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 122 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Bullbrook. Of these 72 (59%) were resident in Bullbrook, 48 (39%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 2 (2%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

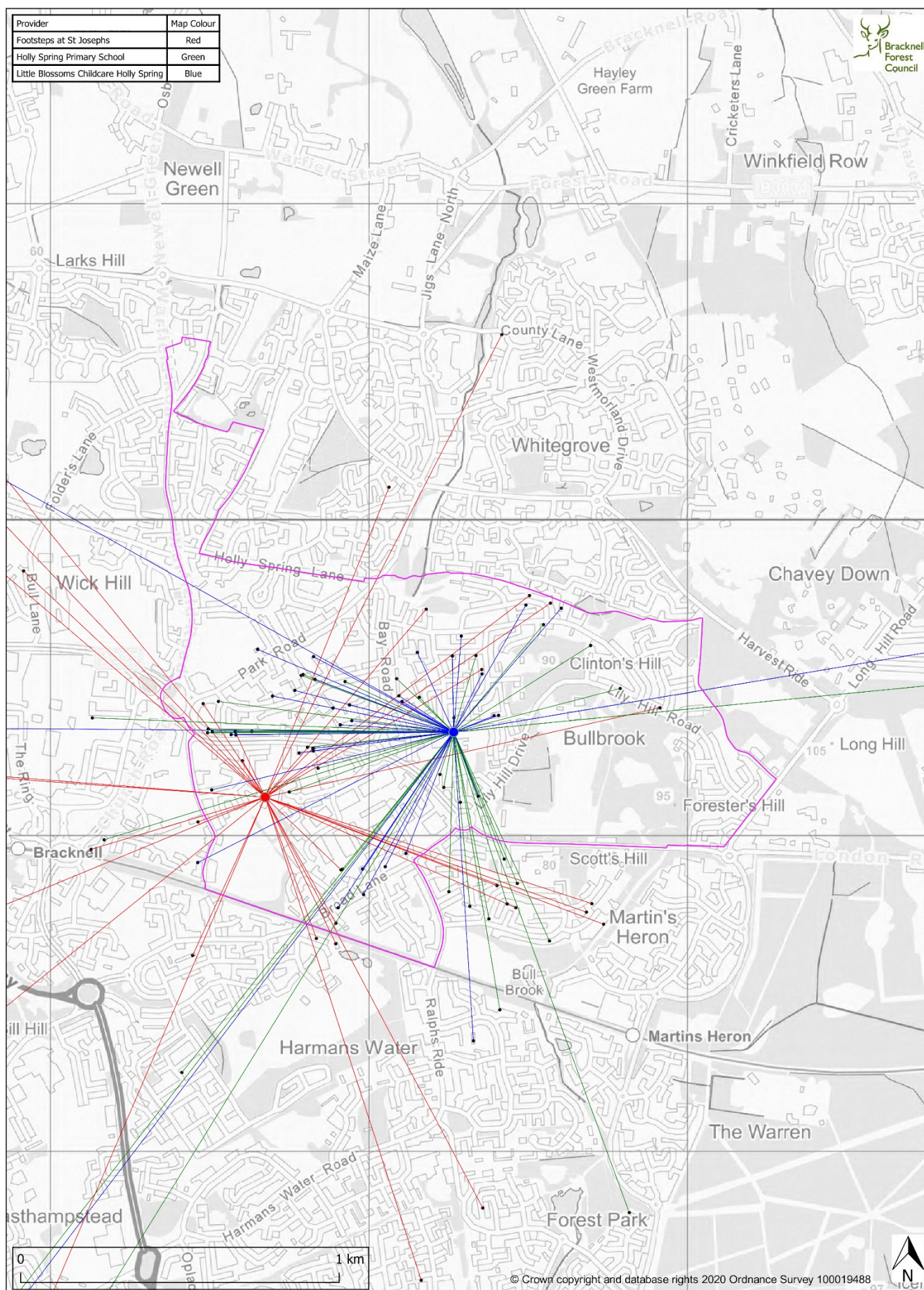
Table 29: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bullbrook	8	33	31	72
Other Bracknell Forest wards	2	21	25	48
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	1	1	2
Total	10	55	57	122

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 6.

Figure 6: Attending Children Distribution - Bullbrook



9.5. Central Sandhurst

9.5.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Central Sandhurst in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 840, of which:

- 286 are aged under 5
- 124 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 418 are aged 5 to 11
- 136 are aged 12 to 14

9.5.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 33. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 30: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	3	18	2
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	64	56
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	0	0	0
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	0	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.5.3. Early years free entitlement funding

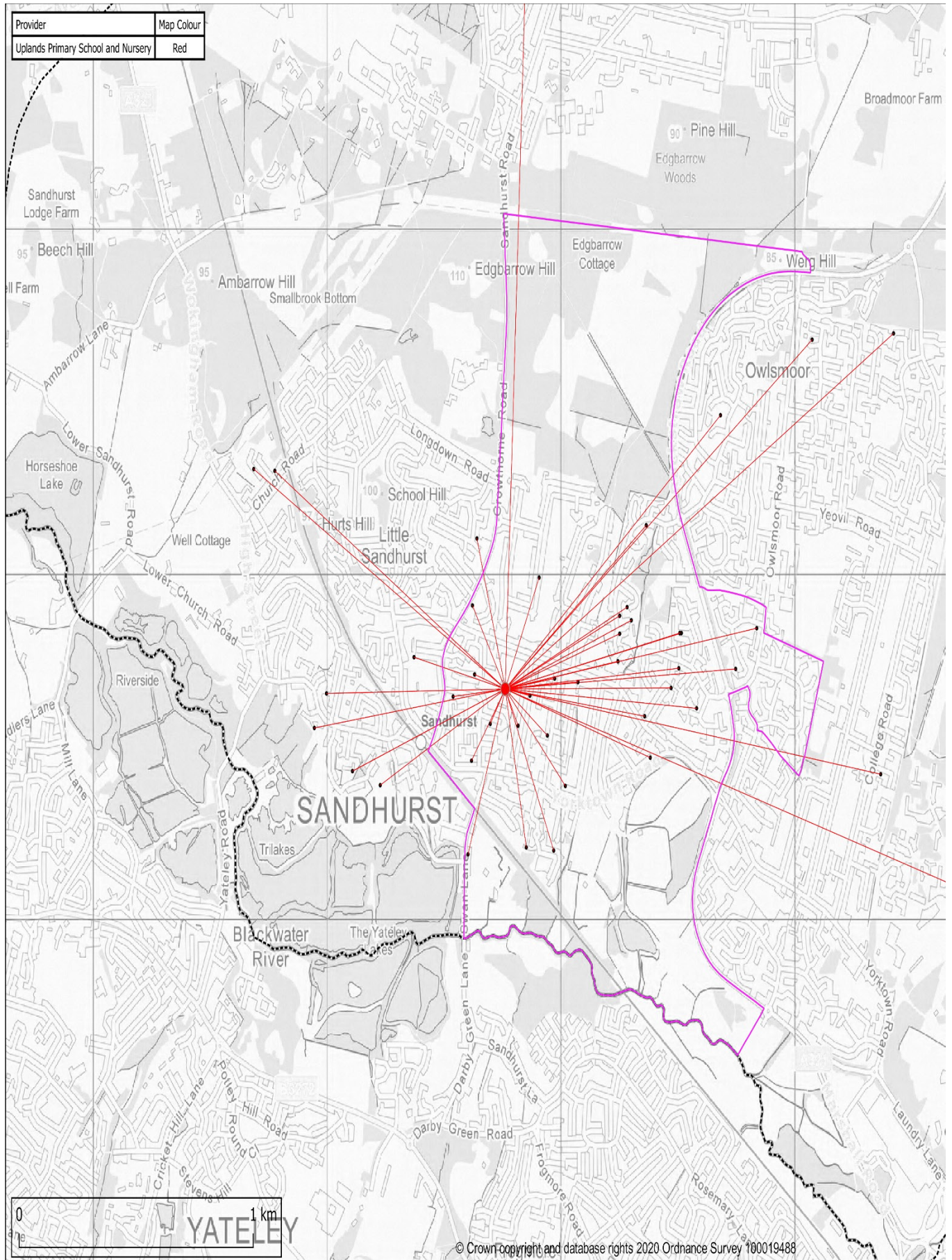
A total of 42 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Central Sandhurst. Of these 30 (71%) were resident in Central Sandhurst, 11 (26%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 1 (2%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 31: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Central Sandhurst	0	20	11	31
Other Bracknell Forest wards	0	11	2	13
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	2	0	2
Total	0	33	13	46

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 7.

Figure 7: Attending Children Distribution - Central Sandhurst

9.6. College Town

9.6.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in College Town in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 912, of which:

- 320 are aged under 5
- 132 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 468 are aged 5 to 11
- 124 are aged 12 to 14

9.6.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 29. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 32: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	12	72	24
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	96	62
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	5	428	255
After school club	0	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	0	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.6.3. Early years free entitlement funding

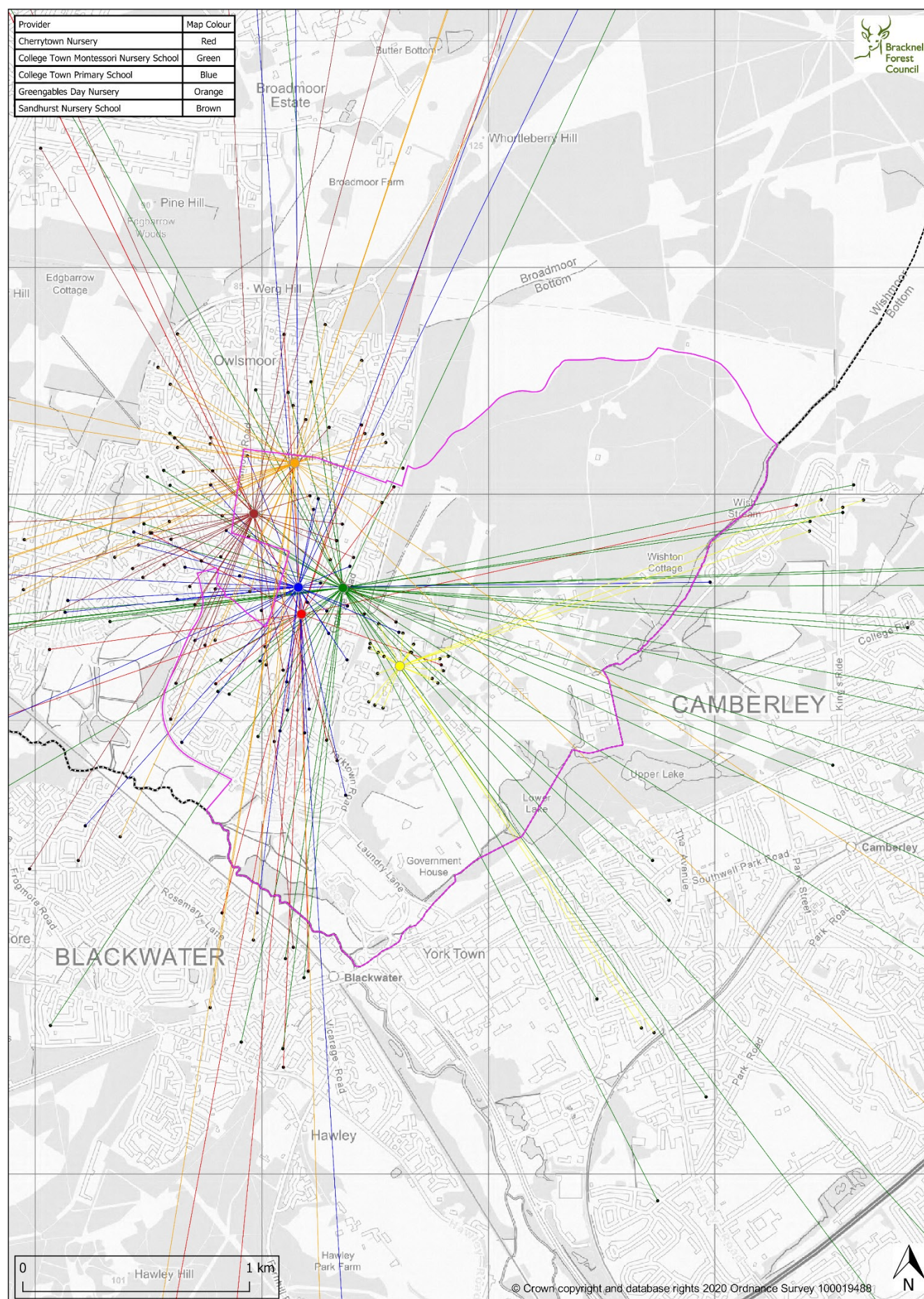
A total of 248 children accessed the early years free entitlements in College Town. Of these 67 (27%) were resident in College Town, 101 (41%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 80 (32%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 33: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
College Town	1	47	19	67
Other Bracknell Forest wards	5	63	33	101
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	58	21	80
Total	7	168	73	248

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 8.

Figure 8: Attending Children Distribution - College Town

9.7. Crown Wood

9.7.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Crown Wood in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,410, of which:

- 588 are aged under 5
- 241 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 649 are aged 5 to 11
- 173 are aged 12 to 14

9.7.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 37. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 34: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	11	63	5
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	1	78	79
PVI providers	1	98	36.1
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	1	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.7.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 86 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Crown Wood. Of these 46 (54%) were resident in Crown Wood, 38 (44%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 2 (2%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

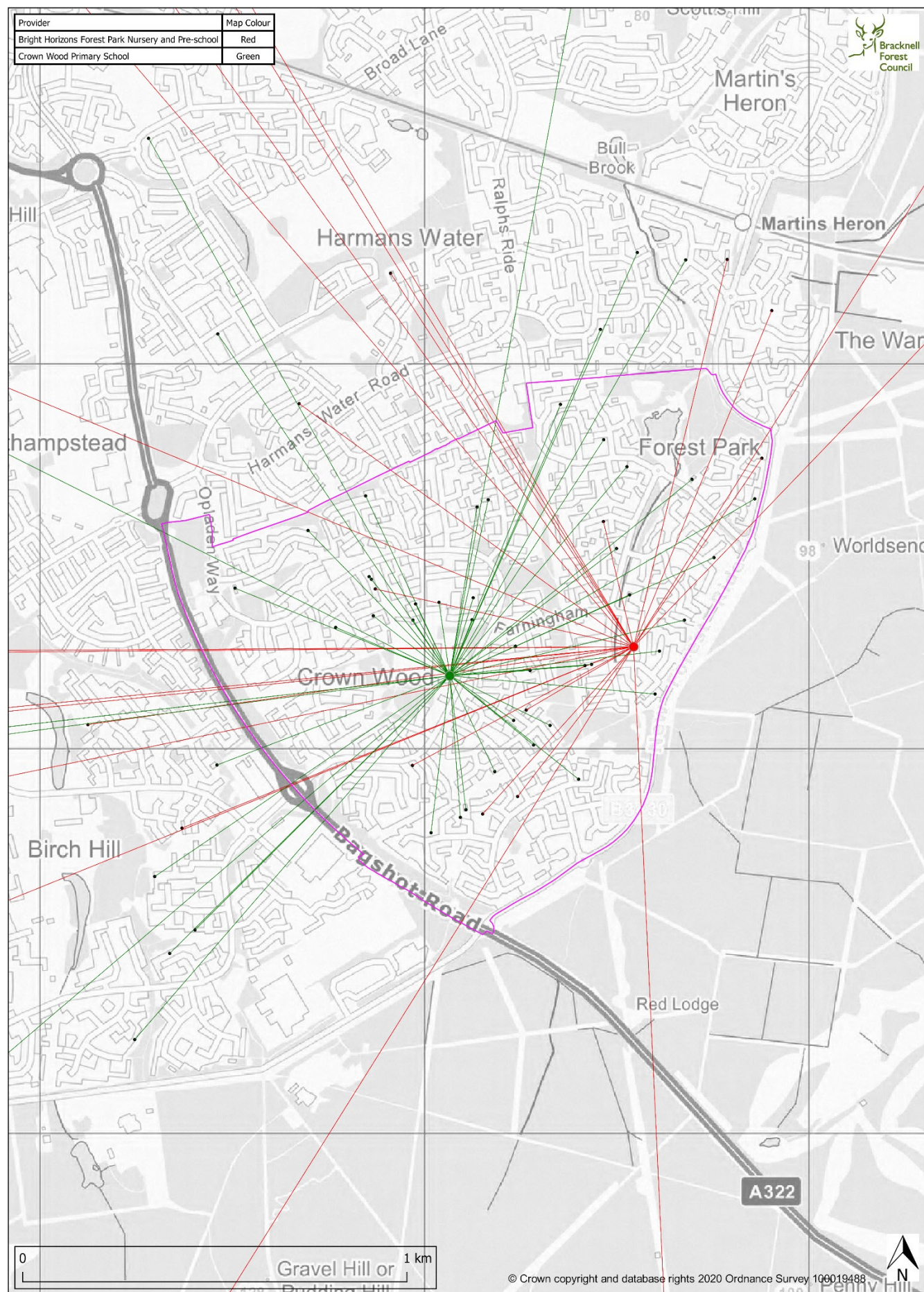
Table 35: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Crown Wood	1	28	17	46
Other Bracknell Forest wards	2	26	10	38
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	2	0	2
Total	3	56	27	86

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 9.

Figure 9: Attending Children Distribution - Crown Wood



9.8. Crowthorne

9.8.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Crowthorne in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 860, of which:

- 230 are aged under 5
- 99 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 485 are aged 5 to 11
- 145 are aged 12 to 14

9.8.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 39. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 36: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	5	26	19.3
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	3	156	106.9
After school club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	1	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.8.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 101 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Crowthorne. Of these 40 (40%) were resident in Crowthorne, 28 (28%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 33 (32%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

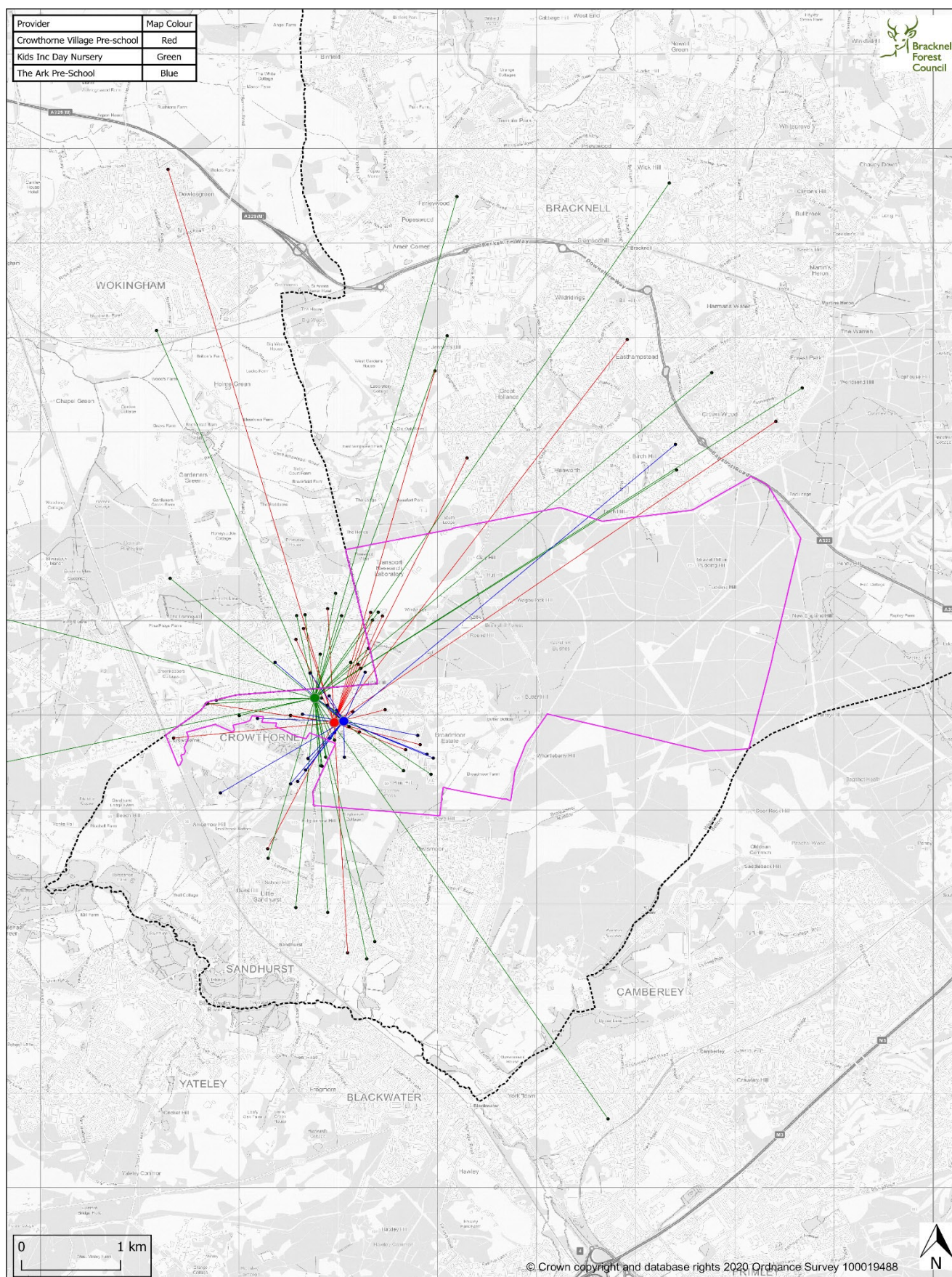
Table 37: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Crowthorne	4	20	16	40
Other Bracknell Forest wards	1	15	12	28
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	20	13	33
Total	5	55	41	101

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 10.

Figure 10: Attending Children Distribution - Crowthorne



9.9. Great Hollands North

9.9.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Great Hollands North in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,986, of which:

- 626 are aged under 5
- 269 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 1,089 are aged 5 to 11
- 271 are aged 12 to 14

9.9.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 41. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 38: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	8	48	16.9
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	2	104	68.4
PVI providers	2	130	83
After school club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	0	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.9.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 140 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Great Hollands North. Of these 98 (70%) were resident in Great Hollands North, 40 (29%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 2 (1%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

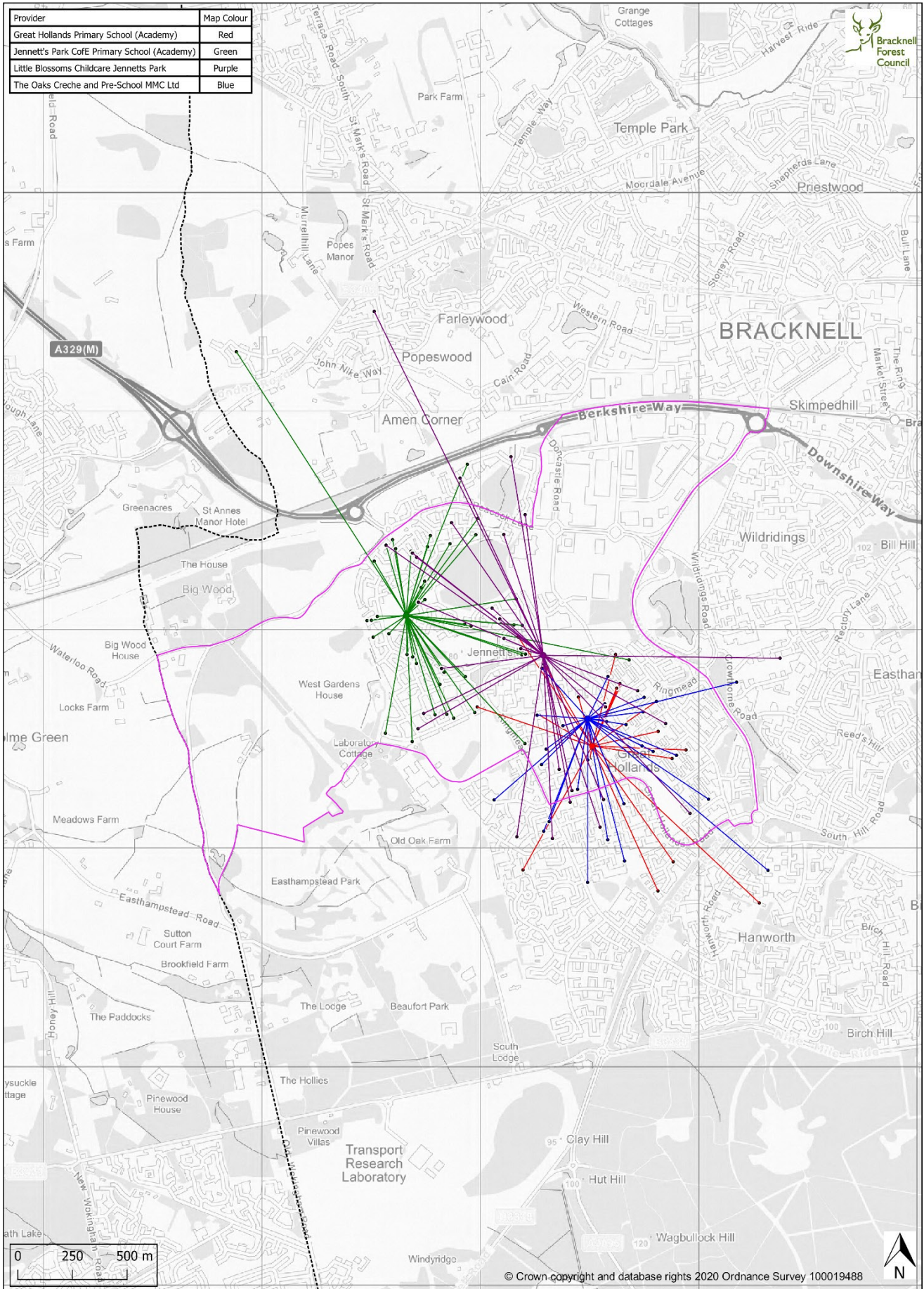
Table 39: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Great Hollands North	12	52	34	98
Other Bracknell Forest wards	5	21	14	40
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	1	1	2
Total	17	74	49	140

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 11.

Figure 11: Attending Children Distribution - Great Hollands North



9.10. Great Hollands South

9.10.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Great Hollands South in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 974, of which:

- 324 are aged under 5
- 140 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 510 are aged 5 to 11
- 140 are aged 12 to 14

9.10.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 43. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 40: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	4	24	6
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	92	83.2
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	0	0	0
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	1	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.10.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 68 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Great Hollands South. Of these 42 (62%) were resident in Great Hollands South, 26 (38%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 0 (0%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

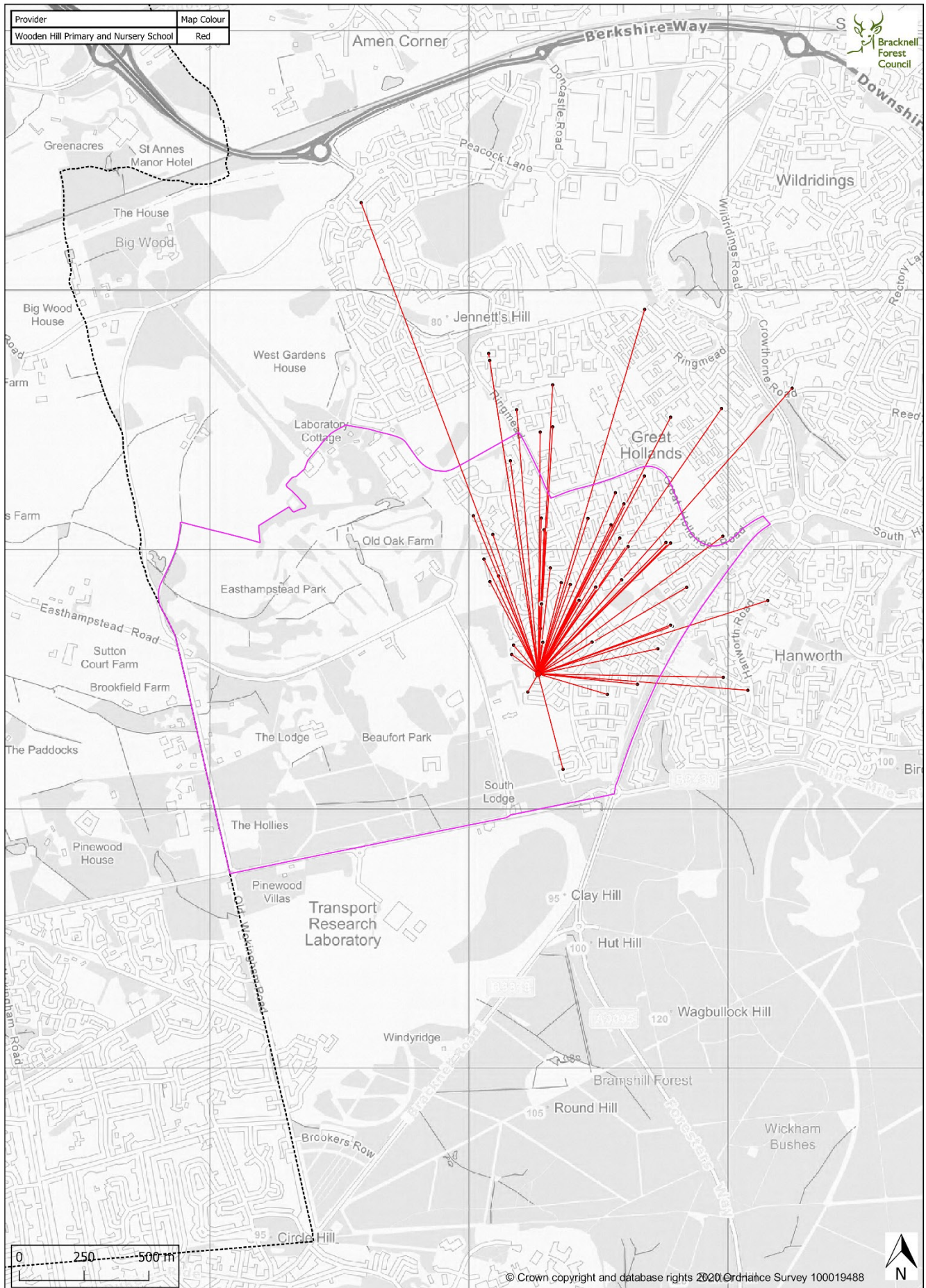
Table 41: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Great Hollands South	0	24	18	42
Other Bracknell Forest wards	0	19	7	26
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0
Total	0	43	25	68

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 12.

Figure 12: Attending Children Distribution - Great Hollands South



9.11. Hanworth

9.11.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Hanworth in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,559, of which:

- 516 are aged under 5
- 192 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 839 are aged 5 to 11
- 204 are aged 12 to 14

9.11.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 45. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 42: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	15	85	28.5
Nursery classes in maintained schools	2	78	75.4
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	4	244	185.5
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	3	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	1	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.11.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 237 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Hanworth. Of these 102 (43%) were resident in Hanworth, 122 (51%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 13 (6%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

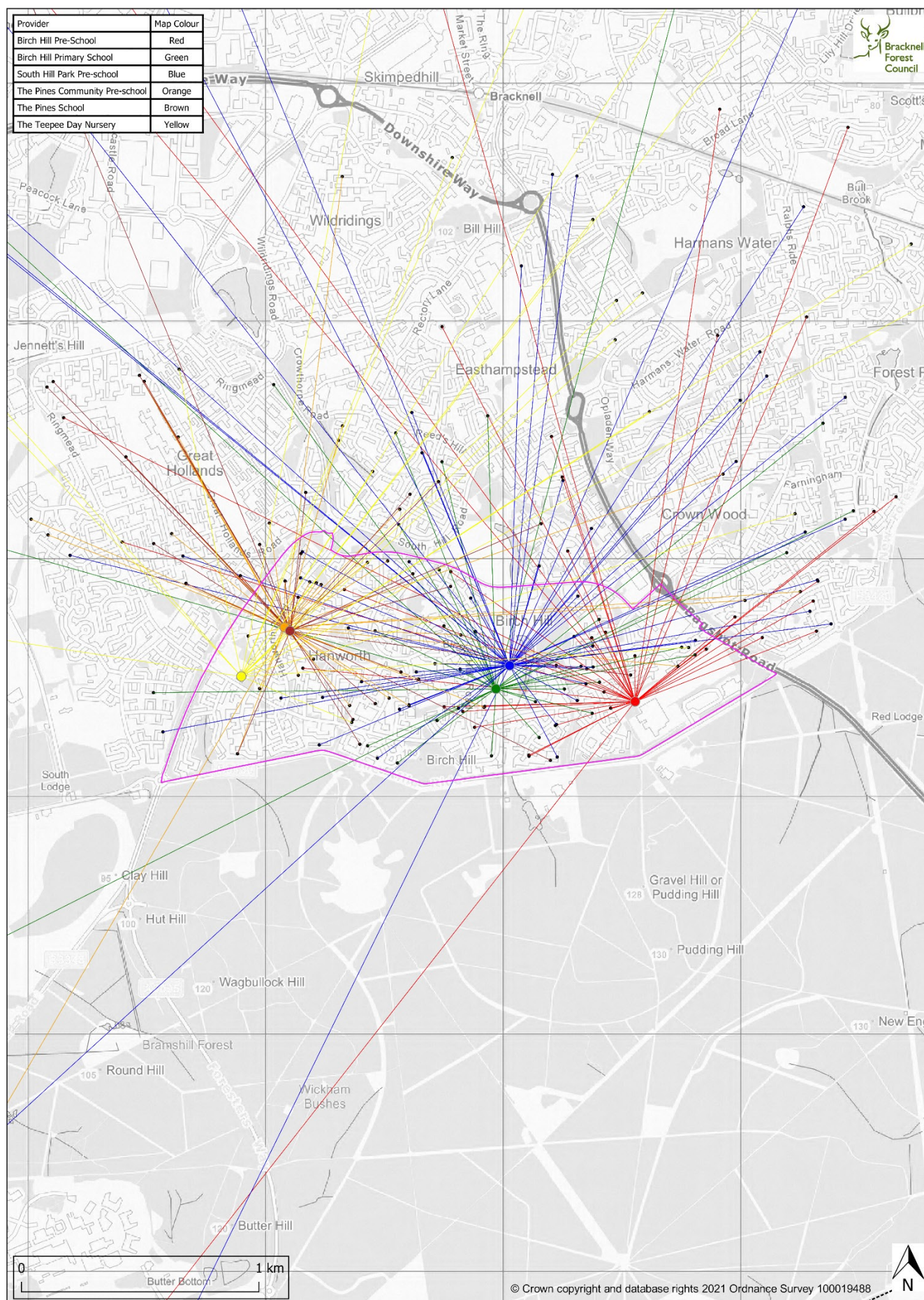
Table 43: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Hanworth	8	62	32	102
Other Bracknell Forest wards	12	69	41	122
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	9	4	13
Total	20	140	77	237

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 13.

Figure 13: Attending Children Distribution – Hanworth



9.12. Harmans Water

9.12.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Harmans Water in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,945, of which:

- 602 are aged under 5
- 265 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 1,057 are aged 5 to 11
- 286 are aged 12 to 14

9.12.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 47. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 44: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	15	90	28.2
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	90	77
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	2	122	67.8
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.12.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 136 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Harmans Water. Of these 67 (49%) were resident in Harmans Water, 66 (49%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 3 (2%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

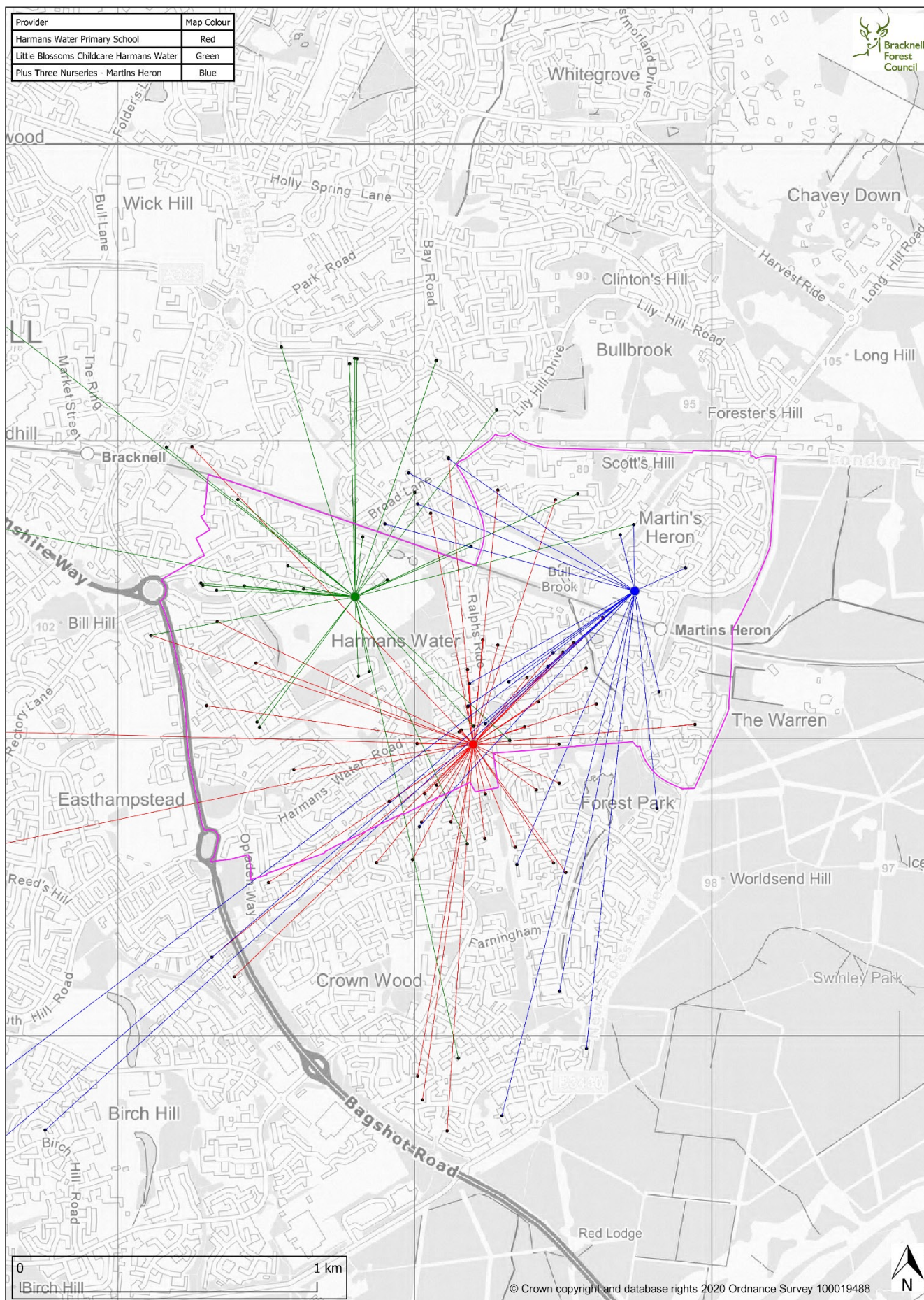
Table 45: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Harmans Water	8	41	18	67
Other Bracknell Forest wards	13	33	20	66
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	1	1	3
Total	22	75	39	136

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 14.

Figure 14: Attending Children Distribution – Harmans Water



9.13. Little Sandhurst and Wellington

9.13.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Little Sandhurst & Wellington in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 853, of which:

- 236 are aged under 5
- 108 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 471 are aged 5 to 11
- 146 are aged 12 to 14

9.13.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 49. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 46: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	4	21	9.6
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	52	36.3
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	2	92	47.7
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	3	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.13.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 82 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Little Sandhurst & Wellington. Of these 41 (50%) were resident in Little Sandhurst & Wellington, 22 (27%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 19 (23%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

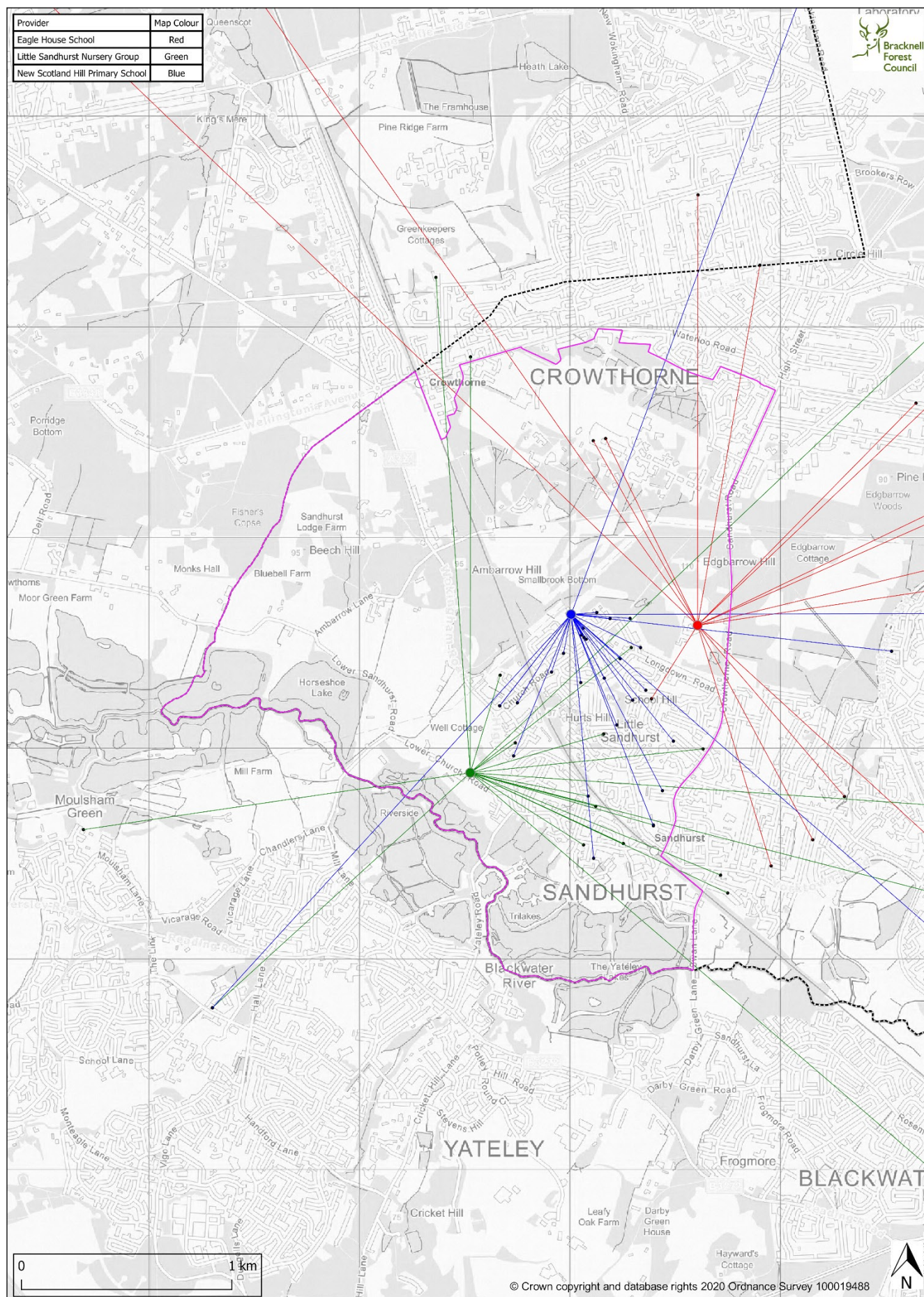
Table 47: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Little Sandhurst & Wellington	1	23	17	41
Other Bracknell Forest wards	1	10	11	22
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	10	8	19
Total	3	43	36	82

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 15.

Figure 15: Attending Children Distribution - Little Sandhurst and Wellington



9.14. Old Bracknell

9.14.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Old Bracknell in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,157, of which:

- 362 are aged under 5
- 151 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 617 are aged 5 to 11
- 178 are aged 12 to 14

9.14.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 51. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 48: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	13	84	22
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	52	28
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	3	92	70.6
After school club	0	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.14.3. Early years free entitlement funding

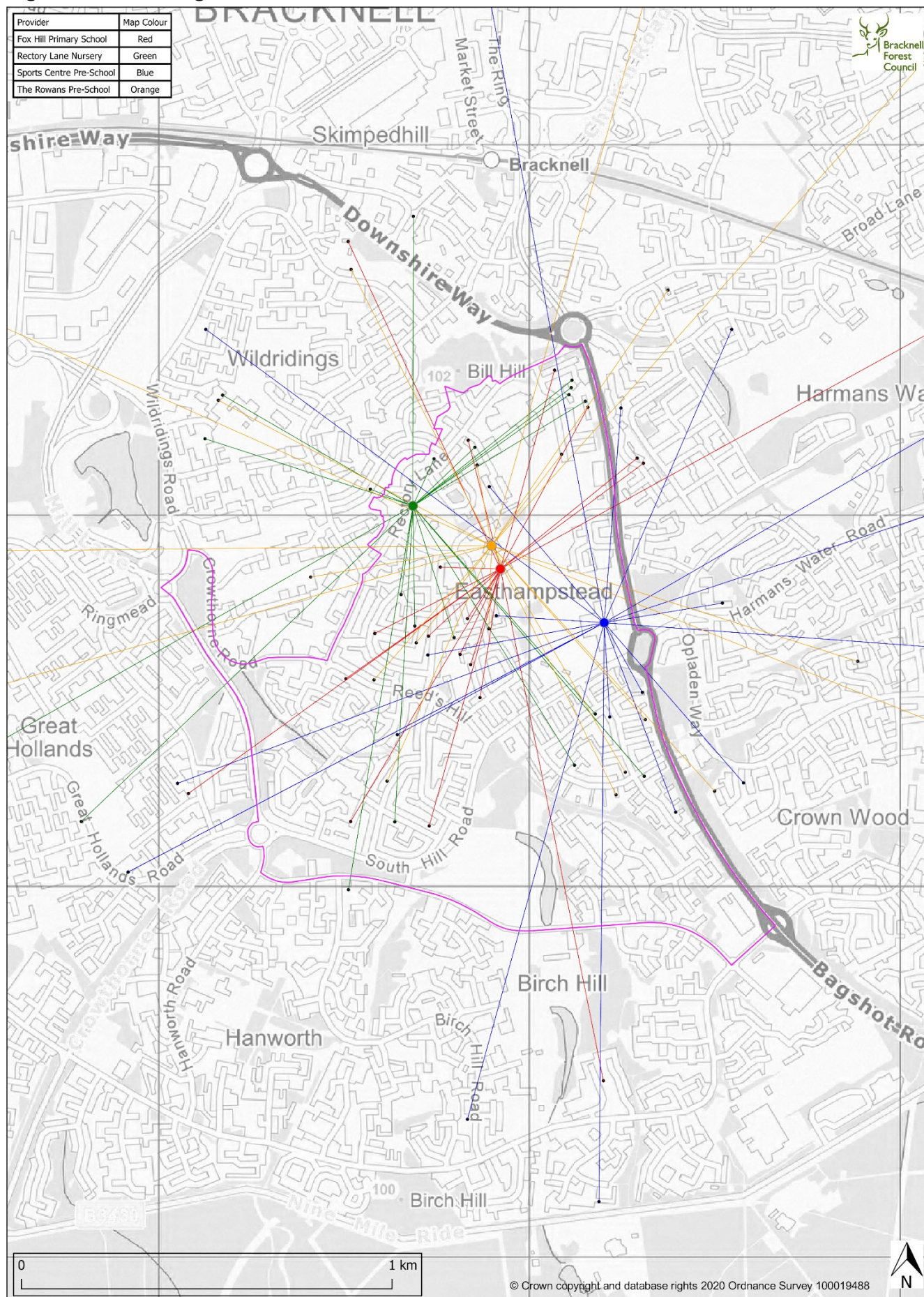
A total of 99 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Old Bracknell. Of these 48 (48%) were resident in Old Bracknell, 51 (52%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 0 (0%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 49: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Old Bracknell	6	23	19	48
Other Bracknell Forest wards	9	27	15	51
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0
Total	15	50	34	99

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 16.

Figure 16: Attending Children Distribution - Old Bracknell

9.15. Owlsmoor

9.15.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Owlsmoor in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 889, of which:

- 286 are aged under 5
- 130 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 460 are aged 5 to 11
- 143 are aged 12 to 14

9.15.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 53. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 50: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	10	57	11.9
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	68	64.8
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	1	54	46.4
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	0	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.15.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 101 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Owlsmoor. Of these 53 (52%) were resident in Owlsmoor, 44 (44%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 4 (4%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 51: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Owlsmoor	2	28	23	53
Other Bracknell Forest wards	2	27	15	44
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	2	1	4
Total	5	57	39	101

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 17.

Provider Map Colour

Little Owls Community Preschool Red

Owlsmoor Primary School Green

0 1 km

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9.16. Priestwood and Garth

9.16.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Priestwood and Garth in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,501, of which:

- 453 are aged under 5
- 176 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 794 are aged 5 to 11
- 254 are aged 12 to 14

9.16.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 55. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 52: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	13	81	20.5
Nursery classes in maintained schools	2	114	100
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	3	216	141.5
After school club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	4	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.16.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 180 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Priestwood and Garth. Of these 76 (42%) were resident in Priestwood and Garth, 94 (52%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 10 (6%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

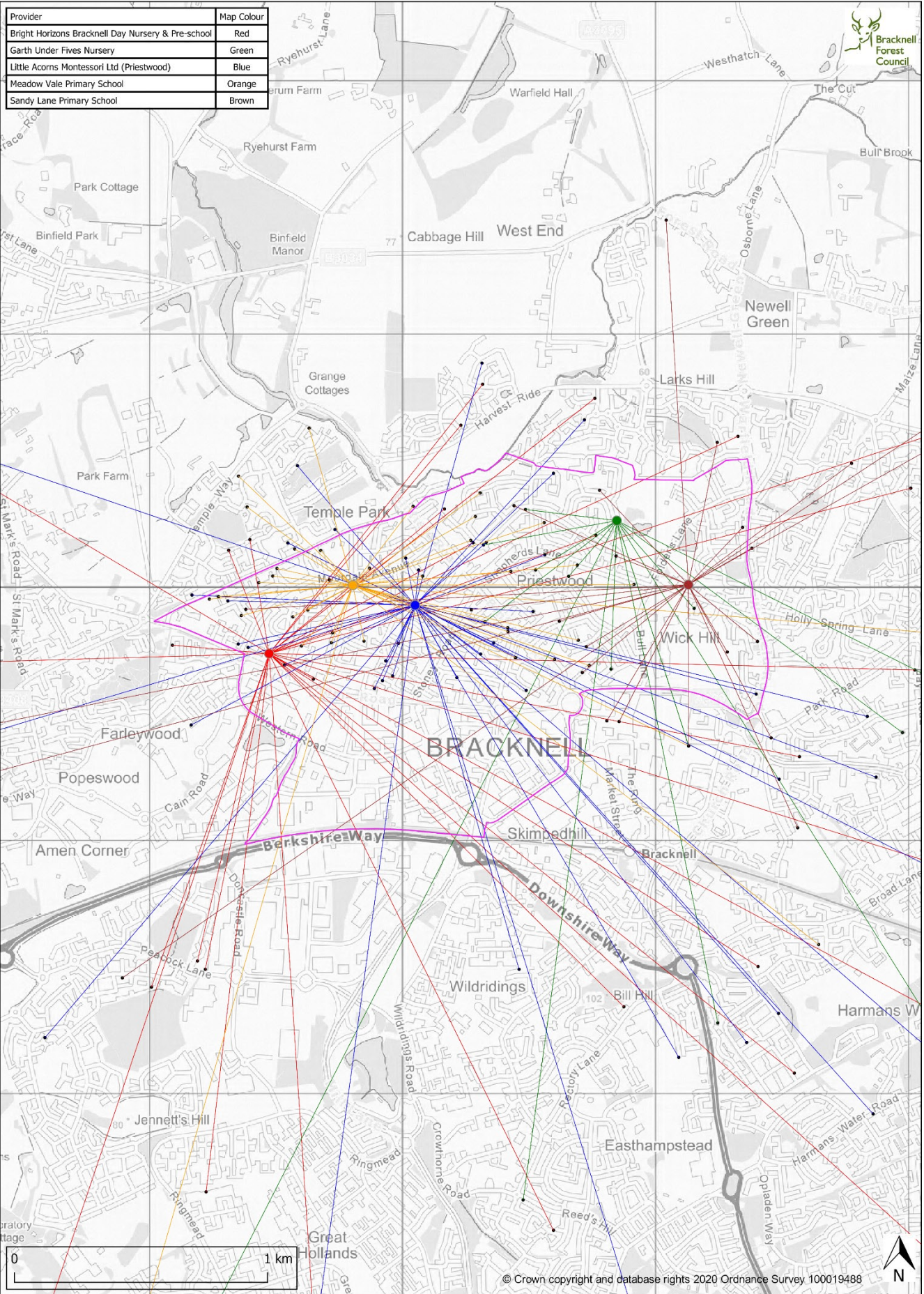
Table 53: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Priestwood and Garth	6	36	34	76
Other Bracknell Forest wards	5	49	40	94
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	7	3	10
Total	11	92	77	180

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 18.

Figure 18: Attending Children Distribution - Priestwood and Garth



9.17. Warfield Harvest Ride

9.17.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Warfield Harvest Ride in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 1,450, of which:

- 419 are aged under 5
- 173 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 776 are aged 5 to 11
- 255 are aged 12 to 14

9.17.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 57. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 54: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	17	105	9.3
Nursery classes in maintained schools #	1	116	96.4
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	2	94	62.2
After school club	2	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

Includes children attending Warfield Primary All Saints & Woodhurst sites

9.17.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 151 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Warfield Harvest Ride. Of these 65 (43%) were resident in Warfield Harvest Ride, 82 (54%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 4 (3%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

Table 55: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

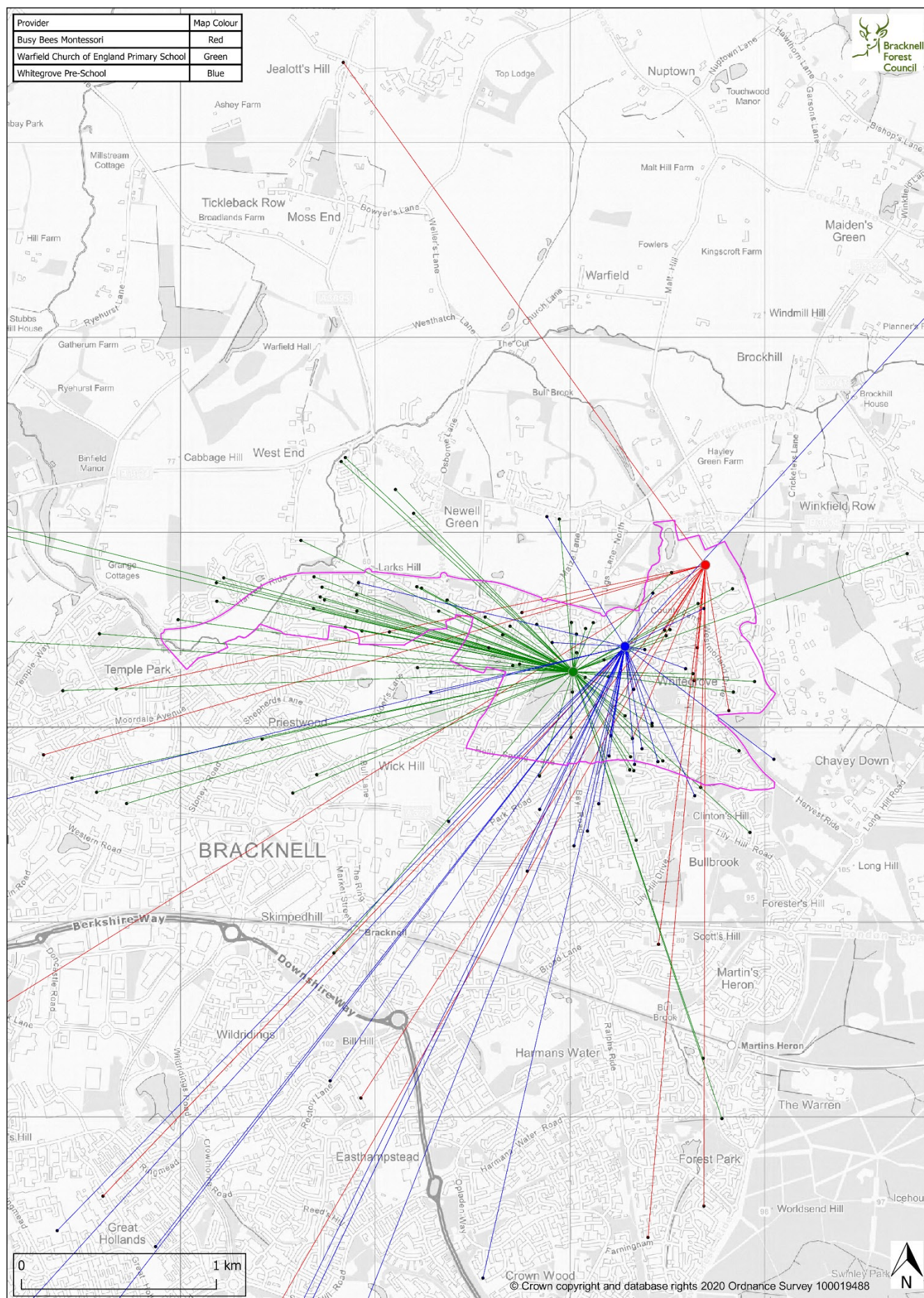
<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Warfield Harvest Ride	0	33	32	65
Other Bracknell Forest wards	8	44	30	82
Outside Bracknell Forest	0	4	0	4
Total	8	81	62	151

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

Includes children attending Warfield Primary All Saints & Woodhurst sites

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 19.

Figure 19: Attending Children Distribution - Warfield Harvest Ride



9.18. Wildridings and Central

9.18.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Wildridings and Central in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 944, of which:

- 337 are aged under 5
- 129 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 485 are aged 5 to 11
- 122 are aged 12 to 14

9.18.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 59. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 56: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	3	18	0
Nursery classes in maintained schools	1	52	49
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	3	301	193.4
After school club	3	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	2	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.18.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 191 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Wildridings and Central. Of these 47 (24%) were resident in Wildridings and Central, 135 (71%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 9 (5%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

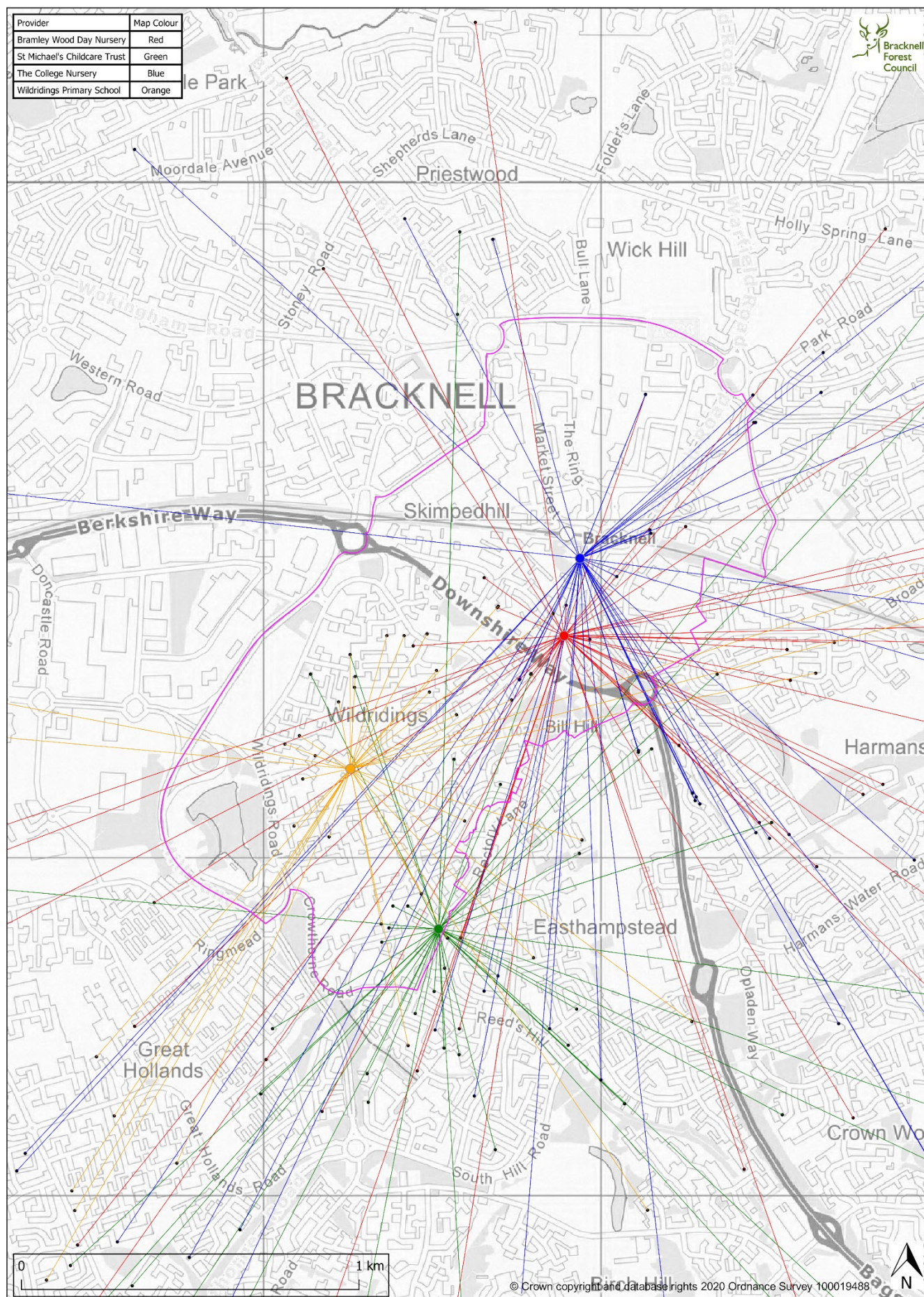
Table 57: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wildridings and Central	3	28	16	47
Other Bracknell Forest wards	13	80	42	135
Outside Bracknell Forest	1	6	2	9
Total	17	114	60	191

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 20.

Figure 20: Attending Children Distribution - Wildridings and Central



9.19. Winkfield and Cranbourne

9.19.1. Population

The total estimate population of children in Winkfield and Cranbourne in the Summer term 2020 aged 0-14 was 605, of which:

- 143 are aged under 5
- 53 are aged 3 and 4 and could be eligible for funded early years places
- 338 are aged 5 to 11
- 124 are aged 12 to 14

9.19.2. Available childcare

The estimated available childcare by provider type is set out in table 61. The uptake figures include funded places for 2-year-olds and universal and extended free entitlement places for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Table 58: Childcare by provider type

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Estimated capacity</i>	<i>Uptake of funded places</i>
Childminders*	0	0	0
Nursery classes in maintained schools	0	0	0
Nursery classes in academies	0	0	0
PVI providers	5	262	181.4
After school club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Breakfast club	1	Insufficient data	n/a
Holiday club	0	Insufficient data	n/a

Sources: OFSTED, Bracknell Forest Local Directory, BFC Free entitlement funding data

* childminder capacity includes places for school age children

9.19.3. Early years free entitlement funding

A total of 152 children accessed the early years free entitlements in Winkfield and Cranbourne. Of these 26 (17%) were resident in Winkfield and Cranbourne, 104 (68%) were resident in other Bracknell Forest wards and 22 (15%) were resident outside of Bracknell forest.

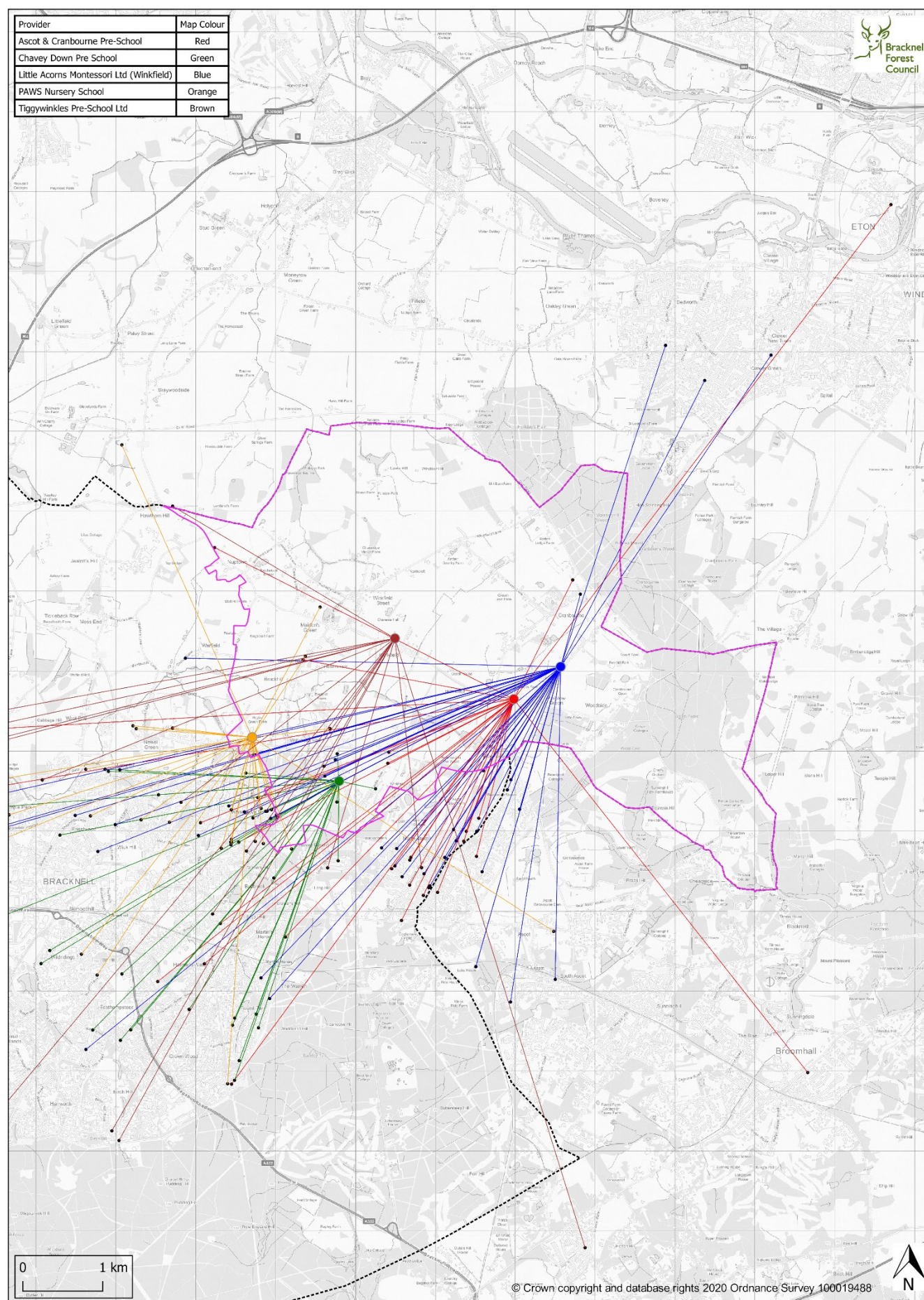
Table 59: Free entitlement uptake by resident ward

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Age 2</i>	<i>Age 3</i>	<i>Age 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Winkfield and Cranbourne	1	13	12	26
Other Bracknell Forest wards	6	64	34	104
Outside Bracknell Forest	3	13	6	22
Total	10	90	52	152

Source: BFC free entitlement funding data

The distribution of children accessing the free entitlement in group provisions is shown in figure 21.

Figure 21: Attending Children Distribution - Winkfield and Cranbourne



10. Methodology

- Child Population – ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2019. This is the same data used in the preparation of the School capacity and places plan.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by Bracknell Forest Council
- Supply of childcare: based on data supplied by providers in the summer term 2020 via the Provider Self Update Portal, data provided by OFSTED and supplemented by local intelligence
- Vacancy rates: based on data supplied by providers in the summer term 2019 via the Provider Self Update Portal
- Funded early education:
 - data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the data held in the Bracknell Forest payment database for the summer term 2020.
 - data on 30 hours eligibility codes from the Department for Education - 30 hours free childcare: summer term 2020 report
- Price of childcare: cost data per age group submitted by providers via the Provider Self Update Portal, the Family Services Directory and from provider websites.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by OFSTED
- Data from parents: Online survey using the Objective survey tool on the council website, October and November 2020. Survey advertised via the Council website, Family Information Service website, social media and childcare providers

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**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
11 MARCH 2021**

2021-22 PROPOSALS FOR THE EARLY YEARS BLOCK BUDGET

**Executive Director:
People**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement for the 2021-22 Early Years budgets, including the values to be attributed to the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF). There is also a decision to consider in line with the statutory funding framework .

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Bracknell Forest Council receives funding for the early years free entitlements through the Dedicated Schools Grant, which includes funding for eligible two year olds and the universal and extended entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds, as part of the dedicated schools grant. This funding is allocated locally to early years providers via the Early Years Funding Formula.
- 2.2 In November the Government announced a £44m increase in early years funding nationally, with details published on 17 December. Early Years funding to Bracknell Forest in 2021-22 will increase by £0.06 per hour for 3 and 4 year olds and by £0.08 per hour for 2 year olds.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the funding increases to Bracknell Forest are passed on in full to providers through the Early Years Funding Formula base rate for 3 and 4 year olds and the universal 2 year old funding rate.
- 2.4 Minor changes to the allocation of funding across the Early Years DSG income budget for 2021-22 are proposed to better reflect current budget forecasts and maintain the agreed proportional distribution of funds through the Early Years Funding Formula.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum considers the EYB budget proposals from the council and AGREES:

- 3.1 **That for the 2021-22 financial year the Executive Member sets:**
1. **The Early Years DSG income budget be set at £7.74m (Table 3)**
 2. **The funding rates in the Early Years Funding Formula are as set out in Table 4**
 3. **The proposed budgets as set out in Annex 1**
- 3.2 **That there are appropriate arrangements in place for administration of the Early Years free entitlement funding.**

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals have taken account of local priorities and estimated levels of available resources.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None. The proposals reflect the approach agreed by Schools Forum on 19 November 2020 and overall affordability within the forecast financial settlement allocated by the Government.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 6.1 This report presents proposals on the Early Years Block (EYB) element of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that the Department for Education (DfE) allocates to Local Authorities (LAs) to fund provisions and support for children up to the age of 5. It covers:
1. the 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for disadvantaged 2 year olds
 2. the universal 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds
 3. the extended 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds
 4. the early years pupil premium (EYPP)
 5. the disability access fund (DAF)
 6. the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)
 7. other specialist and general support services
- 6.2 The statutory regulatory framework necessitates that the council decide on the arrangements to be put in place to meet the requirements for children up to the age of 5 and associated resources, and for Schools Forum to comment on their appropriateness. Final decisions are due to be taken by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning on 23 March.

National Funding Framework

- 6.3 The DfE uses an Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) to distribute DSG income to LAs. This funding framework sets out key requirements on LAs in setting their EYB budgets for **3 and 4 year old's**, these are:
1. To develop and maintain a local EYFF in accordance with parameters set by the DfE, undertaking consultation with providers and the Schools Forum when any changes are proposed, where the EYFF:
 - a. should include a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements (that is, both the universal 15 hours, and the additional 15 hours for working parents)
 - b. must plan to pass on at least 95% of funding directly to providers – the “pass through rate”
 - c. must use a universal base rate, paid at the same value to all providers
 - d. must use a deprivation supplement to target additional funds to the providers admitting the most disadvantaged children
 - e. can include other, discretionary supplements, which the DfE restricts to rurality / sparsity, flexibility of provision, English as an additional language (EAL) or quality of provision

- f. supplements selected by an LA can generally use any measure of eligibility, provided it is applied equally to all providers in a transparent and fair way
- g. must not allocate more than 10% of funding through supplements
- h. That a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) must be created to support children with lower level or emerging SEN
- i. required to pass on the EYPP to providers to support eligible disadvantaged children
- j. required to pass on DAF funding to providers to support disabled children's access to the entitlements

6.4 Requirements on funding providers for **the most disadvantaged 2 year olds** is more straightforward than for 3 and 4 year olds, with no "pass through rate" or payment of additional funding supplements with the DfE encouraging LAs to pay a single flat rate amount. Neither is there a requirement for the SENIF to apply to 2 years, although this is permitted and included in arrangements in the BF SENIF.

Provisional estimate of Early Years Block DSG income

6.5 To reflect potential fluctuations in take-up of the entitlements, and therefore costs, the DfE uses 2 census points to calculate each LAs Early Years Block DSG income. January 2021 part-time equivalent (PTE) actual head count data of eligible children age 2, 3 or 4 for 15 or 30 hours are used to calculate funds the first 5 months of the financial year from April to August 2021; with the equivalent January 2022 data used to fund the 7 months from September 2021 to March 2022.

6.6 On 17 December 2020 the DfE published guidance setting out their intention to follow this approach in 2021-22, but that given the uncertainty, plans for funding local authorities for the summer term 2021 will be kept under close review.

6.7 In January the DfE published additional guidance setting out the requirements for the spring term census Early Years Census 2021 and the Spring School Census 2021, this guidance stated that:

1. For the Early Years Census 2021 '*where a child is reasonably expected to attend Early Years provision, and that provision is made available to them by the provider, their expected hours should be recorded in the Early Years Census. This means children who, were it not for the impact of coronavirus on either their own personal circumstances or on the operation of their Early Years setting, would be attending Early Years provision. This includes children who have previously attended the provision and children who were expected to start attending the provision in January.*'
2. For the Spring School Census 2021 '*Schools must provide pupil level data for pupils who are recorded on the school admission register as at census day, irrespective of whether they attend school on that day. Therefore, pupils who are absent from school on census day, whether the absence is COVID-19 related or for other reasons, should be counted in schools' census returns in the usual way.*

This additional guidance removes most of the previous concern relating to the amount of funds LAs would receive for EY providers with actual attendance generally at lower levels than would ordinarily be expected.

6.8 Providers claimed early years free entitlements in the spring term 2021 on the same basis as they competed their Spring Census 2021, which allows for the calculation of an

estimated part-time equivalent (PTE) headcount for the Spring Census 2021. A comparison of the PTE for the Spring Census 2020 and 2021 are set out in table 1 and illustrates the reduced numbers accessing the free entitlements in Bracknell Forest due to the impact of COVID-19

Table 1: Forecast Spring Census 2021 PTE

	Spring 2020 PTE	Spring 2021 PTE	Change
2 year olds	179.87	143.39	-35.98
3 & 4 year olds Universal hours	1,745.50	1,641.95	-103.55
3 & 4 year olds extended hours	764.50	781.96	17.46
Total	2,689.87	2,567.3	-122.57

6.9 There continues to be uncertainty around the impact of COVID-19 on the number of children who will access the free entitlements in the 2021-22 financial year, particularly in the summer term. However, it is anticipated that numbers will return to pre-COVID levels by the Spring Census 2022. The Spring Census 2020 PTE has therefore been used as a proxy for the Spring Census 2022 in calculating income forecasts and expenditure has been forecast using data from the 2019-20 financial year

6.10 In November 2020 the government announced an additional £44m in early years funding nationally. Details of the increase at an LA level were published on 17 December 2020. Bracknell Forest will receive an increase in funding for 3 and 4 year olds of £0.06 per hour and for eligible 2 year olds of £0.08 per hour. Table 2 sets out the change in funding rates.

Table 2: Forecast changes to Early Years Funding

	2020/21 hourly rate	2021/22 hourly rate
2 year old's	£5.96	£6.04
3 & 4 year old's	£5.01	£5.07

6.11 Table 3 below provides a summary of the £7.74m anticipated EY DSG income for 2021-22, and Annex 1 provides a more detailed breakdown of the calculation.

Table 3: Forecast Early Years Block Income 2021-22

Item	Estimated amount
Funding for 3 & 4 year olds: universal 15 hours	£4,919,630
Funding for 3 & 4 year olds: additional 15 hours for working parents	£2,230,350
Sub total: 3 & 4 year olds	£7,149,980
Funding for 2 year olds	£528,230
Funding for Early Years Pupil Premium	£34,050
Funding for Disability Access Fund	£28,290
Total	£7,740,550

Funding decisions previously taken by Schools Forum

- 6.12 To gather views from providers on appropriate funding arrangements for BF, provider consultations were undertaken in December 2016, December 2017 and December 2018 and October 2019. Reflecting on the outcomes, and the DfE requirements on LAs relating to the EY Funding Framework (paragraphs 6.3 **Error! Reference source not found.** and 6.4), Schools Forum has previously agreed parameters for setting the EYB budget as follows:
1. Funding to be managed centrally by the council is capped at 5% of income
 2. The SENIF should be set at 3%
 3. The provider contingency should be set at 1.5%
 4. The EYFF should allocate 90.5% with:
 - a. The uniform base rate set at around 93%
 - b. The deprivation supplement set at around 4.5%
 - c. The quality supplement set at around 2.5%
 - d. No supplements to be paid for rurality / sparsity, EAL or provider flexibility
 5. The DAF and EYPP funding allocation should be allocated to providers at the same funding rate as received from the DfE
 6. Calculation of the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement is by average score per child.
 7. The percentage of funding paid in the forecast payment is set at 60%
- 6.13 The current EYFF and funding rates are set out in Annex 2.
- 6.14 In the absence of complete financial information from the DfE for the 2021-22 Early Years Block Budget, in November, the Forum agreed the following approach to setting the budget and associated provider hourly funding rates:
- The components and hourly rate values in the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) as agreed for 2020-21 is retained for 2021-22.
 - If the DfE provides an increase in funding for 3 and 4 year old's this will be applied in full to the uniform base rate that is paid to all providers. An increase in funding for 2 year olds will be applied in full to the hourly rate paid to providers

- The IDACI element of the deprivation supplement will be recalculated as normal using data from the 2020 calendar year
- The Quality element will also be recalculated as normal
- Early years providers indicative rates for 2021-22 will be calculated using these proposals

6.15 In December there was significant uncertainty surrounding likely January 2021 participation rates and how this could impact on income in 2021-22. In light of this uncertainty and in anticipation of additional guidance from the DfE on funding arrangements for the summer term 2021, it was not considered appropriate to present final budget proposals to Schools Forum, but to delay these until March.

Proposals for 2021-22

6.16 The increase in funding for 3 and 4 year olds of £0.06 is applied in full to the uniform base rate and increase in funding of £0.08 per hour for funded 2 year olds is applied in full to the hourly rate paid to providers. The proposed changes will:

1. Increase the base rate for 3 and 4 year olds from £4.39 to £4.45 per hour
2. Increase the rate for 2 year olds from £5.54 to £5.62 per hour

6.17 The number of hours claimed by 3 and 4 year olds eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in the 2020-21 financial year increased by 53% over the previous year. As a result, the forecast cost of the Deprivation Supplement in 2021-22, which is comprised of an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) element and an IDACI¹ element, exceeds the available budget allocation.

6.18 The EYPP element is paid on universal hours claimed by 3 and 4 years olds eligible for EYPP funding, with eligibility based on criteria² set by the DfE. The IDACI element is paid on universal and extended hours claimed by 3 and 4 year olds at qualifying providers, with eligibility based on the average IDACI score for children attending the setting over the previous calendar year.

6.19 Children from the most deprived households are not eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement, where eligibility depends on the child's parent(s) being in work³. To reduce the forecast cost of the Deprivation Supplement so that it remains within the available budget envelope and the overall agreed budget objective of around 4.5% of funds, while increasing the allocation for the targeted EYPP element of the Deprivation Supplement, it is proposed that:

1. The IDACI element is paid on universal hours only.
2. The allocation for the IDACI element is reduced to 1.9% of the available budget
3. The allocation of the EYPP element is increased to 2.4% of the available budget

¹ The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests)

² [Get extra funding for your early years provider - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-funding-for-your-early-years-provider)

³ [30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare)

6.20 Three changes to the allocation of funding within the EYB budget are proposed, these changes redistribute the allocation of funding to the EY funding formula to cover the forecast increase in expenditure while addressing an underspend in the SEN Inclusion fund. The proposed changes are:

1. Decrease the allocation for the SEN Inclusion fund to 2% of total available funds as this more closely matches spend expectations.
2. Decrease the centrally retained funding for Bracknell Forest Council services to 4.8% of total available funds.
3. Increase the allocation for the EY Funding Formula to 91.7% of total available funds.

Table 4: Summary of the proposed 2021/22 Early Years Funding Formula

EYFF Element	Weighting	Proposed hourly funding rate	% total EY funding
Deprivation Supplement	1.9 % of EYFF via IDACI scores Average IDACI score of children attending setting. Universal hours only		
	Band 3	£0.39	
	Band 2	£0.26	
	Band 1	£0.13	
	2.4% of EYFF via child eligibility to EYPP	£1.54	
Quality Supplement	2.1% of EYFF via setting leadership qualification Level 5 and above	£0.14	
Uniform Base Rate	93.6% of EYFF	£4.45	
	Indicative EYFF average provider rate	£4.76	91.7%
	Average SEN funding	£0.10	2.00%
	Average contingency funding	£0.08	1.5%
	Subtotal to providers	£4.94	95.2%
	Average BFC funding (5%) max	£0.25	4.8%
	Indicative funding from DfE to BFC	£5.07	100%

6.21 Considering the forecast increase in the base rate and changes to the IDACI element of the deprivation supplement, the following highlight changes are expected in provider funding rates:

1. 9 providers will see a decrease of 6% to 7% in hourly rate. All are childminders no longer eligible for the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement having qualified for Band 3 (£0.39 per hour) in 2020/21.
2. 4 providers will see a decrease of 4% to 5% in hourly rate. All are childminders dropping 2 bands for the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement.

3. 19 providers will see a decrease of 1% to 2% in hourly rate. These providers are dropping 1 band for the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement.
4. 105 providers will see an increase of 1% to 2% in hourly rate. The increase in funding is due to the increase in the base rate only.
5. 15 providers receive an increase of between 3% and 5%. These providers receive an increase of one band in the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement or the quality supplement.
6. 6 providers receive an increase of 10%. All are childminders who did not previously qualify for the IDACI measure of the Deprivation supplement and are now eligible for band 3.

Next Steps

- 6.22 The EYB budget proposal for 2021-22 will be presented to Schools Forum on 11 March for approval and comment, after which the final budget proposal will be presented to the Executive Member for approval.
- 6.23 Providers will be notified of confirmed funding rates for 2021-22 by the end of March

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report

Director of Resources

- 7.2 The financial implications anticipated from the report are set out in the supporting information.

Impact Assessment

- 7.3 There are no specific impact assessments arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 There is no perceived risk, all proposals are within budget limits and are informed by provider feedback.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718181/Early_years_entitlements-operational_guidance.pdf

Early years entitlements: operational guidance for local authorities and providers

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Cherry Hall, Early Years Service Lead 01344 312811

cherry.hall@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

David Allais, Early Years Officer 01344 354027

EHBS@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Proposed 2021-22 EY Budgets

<u>2021-22 EY Budget</u>	3 and 4 year olds						2 year olds			
	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Funded weeks per year	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%
<u>Forecast DSG funding from the DfE:</u>										
15 hours free entitlement funding forecast	£5.07	15	38	970,341	£4,919,630		£6.04	87,455	£528,230	
30 hours free entitlement funding forecast	£5.07	15	38	439,911	£2,230,350		-	-	-	
Total BFC estimate of EY DSG funding	£5.07			1,410,252	£7,149,980		£6.04	87,455	£528,230	
2019-20 rate	£5.01						£5.96			
Change	£0.06	1.2%					£0.08	1.3%		
<u>For allocation through the EY Funding Formula (notional split by supplement):</u>										
Basic rate	£4.45	93.6%	of allocated funds		£6,137,007		£5.62	87,455	£491,490	
Deprivation supplement (average)	£0.21	4.4%	of allocated funds		£285,676		-	-	-	
Quality (average)	£0.10	2.1%	of allocated funds		£134,598		-	-	-	
Total BFC estimate of EY Funding Formula allocation	£4.76	(average)			£6,557,281	91.7%	£5.62	87,455	£491,490	93.0%
2020-21 rate	£4.70						£5.54			
Change	£0.06	1.3%					£0.08	1.4%		

<u>2021-22 EY Budget</u>	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Funded weeks per year	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%
<u>Funding to be managed by the Council</u>										
<u>Outside the 5% cap of EY Funding Formula:</u>										
SEN Inclusion Fund	£0.10	2.0%	of total available funds		£143,000				£12,950	
Provider Contingency	£0.08	1.5%	of total available funds		£103,780					
					£246,780	3.5%				
Total within the 95% allocation to providers - the "Pass through rate"					£6,804,061	95.2%				
<u>Inside the 5% cap of EY Funding Formula:</u>										
BFC Services	£0.25	4.8%	of total available funds							
Outreach to parents					£31,960			£21,600		
Professional support to providers					£103,810			£0		
Business support to providers					£90,200			£0		
EAL Specialist Support					£30,000			£0		
Free milk					£11,210			£0		
Free entitlement systems and software					£34,610			£2,190		
Management of the EY Funding Formula					£44,130			£0		
Total BFC estimate of funding to be managed by the Council					£345,920	4.8%				
Total BFC estimate of EY funding					£7,149,981	100.00%				
<u>Other Income</u>										
Early Years Pupil Premium	£0.53	15	38	64,239	£34,050					
Ring fenced Disability Access Fund		£615	per child	46	£28,290					
Total anticipated income - DSG and other					£7,740,550					

Summary of the 2020-21 BF Early Years Funding Formula

EYFF Element	Weighting	Proposed hourly funding rate	% total EY funding
Deprivation Supplement	2.2 % of EYFF via IDACI scores Average IDACI score of children attending setting. Top 20% - Band 3 Next 10% - Band 2 Next 10% - Band 1	£0.13, £0.26 & £0.39	
	2.3% of EYFF via child eligibility to EYPP	£1.54	
Quality Supplement	2.4% of EYFF via setting leadership qualification Level 5 and above	£0.14	
Uniform Base Rate	93% of EYFF	£4.39	
	Indicative EYFF average provider rate	£4.70	90.5%
	Average SEN funding	£0.15	3.0%
	Average contingency funding	£0.08	1.5%
	Subtotal to providers	£4.93	95.0%
	Average BFC funding (5%) max	£0.25	5%
	Indicative funding from DfE to BFC	£5.01	100%

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TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 11 MARCH 2021

2021-22 PROPOSALS FOR THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET **Executive Director of People**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek comments on the detailed budget proposals for the High Needs Block (HNB) element of the Schools Budget that are being presented now by the Council. There are also a small number of decisions for the Forum to take in line with the statutory funding framework.
- 1.2 Comments are being sought so that they can be considered before the Executive Member makes the formal decision on these matters.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The HNB funds support for children and young people with the most challenging educational requirements. It is the most complex part of school funding framework, with budgets needing to be set before a number of funding allocations are confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 2.2 Whilst the total cash increase for the 2021-22 Bracknell Forest (BF) HNB will be 8% per pupil, with the total income retained by BF estimated at £18.998m (+9.7% cash with other data changes in the national formula), this is insufficient to meet the demands forecast.
- 2.3 Taking account of the update on progress against the actions contained within the SEND Commissioning Plan, the revised medium-term financial forecast indicates a forecast annual deficit of circa £5.7m (was £4.9m) which is around 30% of the annual grant allocation. The deficit at 31 March 2023 is now forecast at £17.216m (was £14.952m) which is approaching 80% of annual income.
- 2.4 Part of this change, as previously reported, is accounted for from the rephased and re-worked improvement and savings programme which reflects the coronavirus pandemic and current opportunities.
- 2.5 The financial challenges being experienced are not unique to BF with many LAs having to set deficit budgets. This is further illustrated from the publication of a recent national survey by the f40 Group.
- 2.6 Work will continue in partnership with the HNB sub-group of the Schools Forum to develop further service improvements and cost reductions to remove the reduce the underlying funding gap and tackle the accumulated deficit. This is a significant challenge to what are sensitive budgets with the HNB budget heading towards an unsustainable position.
- 2.7 The DfE has also very recently launched a consultation to review aspects of the HNB NFF that is used to allocate funds to LAs and this seeks views on a small number of changes for 2022-23 and sets out the intention to consider further changes in the context of a wider review of the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) system from 2023-24.

- 2.8 The outline changes being considered for 2022-23 indicate a potential £0.738m funding reduction for BF through the HNB NFF, although the current Funding Floor protection mechanism would mean no overall change. If implemented, this would further increase the significance of the Funding Floor factor to BF which would allocate 18% of total funds received, compared to the all England average of 2%.
- 2.9 For BF, retaining a positive annual increase to the Funding Floor factor is the most significant element of the consultation, although this is not specifically covered.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum AGREES:

3.1 That the Executive Member:

1. sets the total initial Dedicated Schools Grant funded HNB budget at £18.998m,
2. releases £0.143m of funds from the SEND Units Reserve to finance estimated start-up costs at the proposed Special Resource Provisions in BF schools
3. confirms the changes set out in the supporting information (Table 1 and Annex 5) and relevant budgets are therefore updated to those summarised in Annex 6.

3.2 That there are appropriate arrangements in place for:

1. The education of pupils with SEN (paragraph 6.22), and
2. The use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school (paragraph 6.22).

That the FORUM notes:

3.3 The further deterioration in the forecast financial position of the HNB Budget at Table 1, with a:

1. £5.698m deficit forecast for financial year 2021-22
2. £11.217m cumulative deficit forecast for 31 March 2022, and
3. £17.216m cumulative deficit forecast for 31 March 2023.

3.4 The key aspects of the DfE consultation on the review of the 2022-23 HNB NFF including:

1. the importance of the Funding Floor factor to protect against a potential £0.738m funding reduction.
2. the potential for significant changes in funding allocations to LAs from 2023-24 for which the financial implications cannot be estimated at this stage

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the 2021-22 HNB Budget is set in accordance with the overarching funding framework, the expected needs of pupils and that the views of the Schools Forum are considered.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 A range of options will be considered with the HNB sub-group as the recovery plan is further developed.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Funding Framework

- 6.1 The HNB element of the Dedicated Schools Grant ¹ (DSG) is allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) by the DfE through a national funding formula (NFF) to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and is intended to fund a continuum of provision for relevant pupils and students from 0-24. It is a ring-fenced grant that defines the areas of permitted spend against which LAs in general commission services from providers. In-house arrangements are made for a relatively small number of provisions.

More information on the scope of the HNB DSG and the determination of each LAs funding is set out in Annex 1.

Financial context - national

- 6.2 As reported to the Forum in October, in response to the continuing growth in deficits on HNB budgets, in January 2020, the DfE updated the status of the DSG ring-fence to make clear that any deficit must be carried forward to the Schools Budget in the next financial year or future financial years. This is intended to confirm that no liability for a deficit will fall onto an LAs General Fund. In addition, LAs are no longer permitted to use their General Fund income to fund the Schools Budget without express permission of the Secretary of State.
- 6.3 Whilst the legal framework requires accumulated HNB deficits to remain within the Schools Budget and outside the funding responsibility of LAs, day to day operational decisions continue to rest with LAs and as with all decisions around spending of public money, these are taken in accordance with the normal rules and professional financial management standards required by the Council in the Financial Regulations and other Financial Procedure documents.
- 6.4 To add some current context to national HNB budget information, 77 LAs (52% response rate), including BFC, completed a financial survey in autumn 2020 to provide key statistics around their SEND budgets to illustrate how well councils were managing their funding in 2020-21 in comparison to demand, and identify trends.

¹ DSG is the ringfenced grant used by the DfE to fund LAs for prescribed education related services.

6.5 A summary of general findings is as follows:

- Of the 77 that responded, 69 expected SEND budgets to be in deficit for 2020-21, with only eight expecting to have a balance or to finish even.
- Most LAs say deficit budgets are rising each year, some doubling.
- Three expect their cumulative deficits to be more than the income they received for 2020-21.
- In 2018-19, 43 requested to move money from Schools Block (SB) to High Needs Block (HNB). 41 were permitted to do so.
- 2019-20, 52 requested to move money from SB to HNB. 43 were permitted to do so.
- 2020-21, 45 requested to move money from SB to HNB. 31 were permitted to do so.

6.6 A summary of BF specific findings is as follows:

- BF is around the mid-point of the survey results in terms of cash size of deficit forecast for 31 March 2021.
- BF is in the top 10 LAs for the amount of cash deficit to be incurred in 2020-21.
- BF has the 14th highest overspend per pupil
- At just under 40%, BF has the 15th highest 2020-21 deficit as a proportion of HNB funding.
- BF request to schools to move money in 2019-20 was rejected by the Schools Forum with no appeal made by the council to the secretary of state to overrule

Financial context - local

6.7 The Forum is aware of the significant financial challenges most LAs are facing in managing their HNB budgets. Locally, the BF HNB budget first moved into an overspend in 2019-20 at £3.220m and 2020-21 is currently forecast to overspend by £5.378m (up £0.494m from the amount reported in January). After taking account of the historic cumulative unallocated DSG Reserves, the expectation is for a year end net deficit £5.519m which equates to around 30% of annual income.

6.8 As previously reported, the key factors affecting the financial pressure are:

- Significant cost pressures are being experienced, which is a national issue, and not just limited to BF, with the number of pupils with a statement or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)² having increased in the 2 years

² An EHCP is a legal document that describes a child or young person's special educational, health and social care needs. It explains the extra help that will be given to meet those needs and how that help will support the child or young person.

between 2018 and 2020 by 16.2%³. The change in BF showed a steeper increase of 17.7%⁴.

- Taking account of the increasing use of private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) sector providers, costs over the same 2-year period to 31 March 2020 increased by 27.3% during which time grant from the DfE has increased by 4.8%.
- The 2019 Education Spending Review confirmed an 8% increase in per head funding on most factors in the HNB NFF in both 2020-21 and 2021-22 for BF next year. This amounts to an annual increase of around £1.7m.
- The previously reported 3-year medium term financial forecast with no interventions predicted a cumulative £17.247m overspend at 31 March 2023. After planned interventions, this reduced to £14.952m.
- The HNB national funding formula is being introduced on a phased basis. This is designed to ensure that those areas losing money have time to adjust their spending patterns and there is a funding “floor” to prevent losses in income. This approach has significantly benefitted BF as the council will receive additional transitional funding protection in 2021-22 of £2.857m which amounts to 14% of total income compared to the LA average of 2%. As set out below from paragraph 6.23, the DfE is reviewing the HNB funding formula and there is a risk that over time the funding “floor” money will be eroded or lost.

- 6.9 It has been previously agreed that the Forum’s HNB Sub Group would work with the council on a plan to reduce costs and be in a position in the medium-term where it will be possible to start to pay back the deficit. The SEND Commissioning Plan details the current approach and actions.

SEND Commissioning Plan

Update to December 2020

- 6.10 In terms of recent progress, the January Forum meeting received a detailed update on progress against actions in the Commissioning Plan, and this is repeated for reference at Annex 2. The key points presented were:
1. In general, progress against the actions intended to reduce spending had been slower than expected, mainly due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic which had diverted council resources, removed the ability to collaborate with key partners and insufficient capacity in the People Directorate.
 2. The development of Special Resource Provisions (SRP) was progressing with primary schools with new SRPs for secondary schools to be worked on during 2021.
 3. Work was underway with Kennel Lane School to maximise use of the specialist places to pupils with the most complex levels of need.
 4. Developing new provisions for post-16 students

³ DfE SEN statistic at relevant January from: [Create your own tables online, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

⁴ Average FTE placements for the financial year that BFC is financially responsible for, reconciled to payments to providers

5. Analysis of the feasibility of a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Hub is underway.
6. Better governance of SEND processes and procedures
7. Better strategic commissioning

Update January to March 2021

- 6.11 Good progress has been made on SRP's. Two SLAs have been completed and signed with a further eight almost completed. Work is at the early stages or has yet to start on the remaining five. Three of the schools are currently undertaking their statutory consultation ahead of setting up their new provision (Birch Hill, Sandy Lane and Rainbow at Meadow Vale). The first SRP Network Forum is due to meet on 11 March and will include 3 'breakout' sessions for Headteachers, School Business Managers and SENCOs.
- 6.12 The SEND "top up" Funding Matrix Task and finish group have been formed and include Headteachers from Kennel Lane, College Hall, Garth Hill and Uplands as well as a School Governor (from Meadow Vale). The group is supported by Emma Ferrey representing SEN and Angela Fright from Finance. The first meeting was on Thursday 25 February where the group looked at narrowing four banding matrix options down to one or two in order to analyse more detailed costings.
- 6.13 HNB project has developed a data dashboard which shows expenditure on the HNB and areas of pressure. This work supports the development of the feasibility study for the SEMH Hub as well as for the business cases for establishing SRPs. Both of these two projects are moving forward at pace and are expected to be finalised for a decision by Easter.
- 6.14 Roll out of the SEND Intervention Panel. The Panel meets weekly to review and approve Children's Support Service and SIF referrals. Panel members include representatives from Safeguarding our Schools, Autism Support, SEN, Education Psychology Service and Support for Learning. SIF referrals can include requests for Short term Alternative Provision placements, specialist intervention & resources and targeted therapeutic support.
- 6.15 A more robust and collaborative approach to Preparing for Adulthood has been identified as a long-term objective. A task and finish group has now been set up which will be facilitated by a lead trainer from National Development Team for Inclusion and scheduled to commence from February.

Budget Proposals

- 6.16 Taking account of the latest information and progress, further work has been completed on the forecasts. This reflects the latest outturn forecast for 2020-21 with an additional £0.494m spend now expected which will create an in-year over spending of £5.378m (the December reporting cycle is now available to replace the previously reported October cycle) together with revised assumptions around the key expenditure and savings plan items. With the general expectation that the majority of expenditure now being incurred will be fixed for the short to medium-term, this has a significant effect on the medium-term forecast deficit.
- 6.17 For 2021-22 and 2022-23, updated forecasts have been determined from government spending announcements, current on-going commitments, key assumptions relating to new requirements and the revised expectations relating to the delivery of the

savings included in the SEND Commissioning Plan. These are summarised below in Table 1, with more commentary below, split between 2021-22 impact and 2022-23:

1. -£1.679m increase in income for 2020-21 from the DfE of an 8% uplift on relevant factors of the HNB NFF. This reflects the provisional confirmed increase but is subject to change when final census data for SEND placements are confirmed in June, including the import / export adjustment between LAs for out of borough placements.

Whilst detailed spending plans for 2022-23 are not known, the overall increase in total funds confirmed in the Education Spending Review is similar to the first 2 years, suggesting a potential further 8% increase in 2022-23 at -£1.618m.

2. £1.522m for annual increases in paid places for EHCP pupils which are forecast to increase by 10% (84 extra places). The recent 3-year average increase has been 12.7% but is expected to be lower due to impacts from the SEND Commissioning Plan. To reflect the graduated approach to learning, there is an expectation that a higher proportion of pupils will remain in mainstream settings and therefore the new places are assumed to average 85% of the current cost amount.

The same approach to the calculation of demand for places for EHCP pupils has been included for 2022-23 i.e. 10% demand increase (93 places) at 85% current average cost of placement. This equates to a pressure of £1.712m.

3. £5.378m additional spend to bring the 2020-21 forecast overspend into the on-going base budget and therefore reflect the medium-term nature that most of the newly made commitments represent on most budgets.
4. £0.526m for the following specific new 2021-22 budget pressures:
 - a. A re-banding of all students at Kennel Lane Special school to ensure a minimum top-up payment of £12,745 (£0.208m)
 - b. A review of the underlying costs at College Hall Pupil Referral Unit (CH) indicates an on-going funding shortfall (£0.024m)
 - c. Bracknell and Wokingham College (B&WC) has indicated that the coronavirus pandemic, around 5 students with high needs will need to retake the current year of tuition in September 2021 (£0.032m)
 - d. Additional funding to replace the teachers' pay and pension grants. This affects KLS, CH, SEND Specialist Units and top up funding in mainstream schools. There is a funding shortfall estimated at £0.028m from the £0.207m added to the HNB DSG allocation. (£0.235m)
 - e. To maintain the current level of additional specialist staffing resources to deliver the actions from the Commissioning Plan (£0.050m).
 - f. The full year effect cost of the 2020-21 forecast outturn (-£0.023m).

With the exception of student retakes at B&WC (item c. above), where a further pressure of £0.023m is expected in 2022-23, these pressures are not expected to require further funding increases. Additionally, a pressure of £0.020m has been included for the new SRPs for 2022-23 which reflect the additional start-up costs exceeding the initial anticipated savings.

5. £0.401m for annual inflationary increases of:
 - a. 2.1% for provisions in LA schools, to reflect the estimated impact from the anticipated public sector pay awards which limits increases to staff on less than £24,000 per annum and increases in employer

contributions to the LG pension fund deficit. This is the inflationary increase to be applied universally to all Element 3 top ups in the BF funding matrix. Actual cost changes will vary by school. This calculation reflects the average expected across all school types

- b. 2.0% for provisions in PVI and other external setting, reflecting the expected increases to the minimum wage (+2.2%) and other pressures
- c. 0.7% for general costs (January 2020 CPI actual).

The same approach to the calculation of estimated inflation has been included for 2022-23 and amounts to £0.435m.

- 6. -£0.449m aggregate cost reductions from the savings plan. This includes further savings of -£0.034m from the SEND support stage, -£0.047m from reducing demand for EHCP, -£0.121m from the review of Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) at specialist providers, -£0.163m from improved Commissioning and -£0.084m from reviews of central services. Annex 3 sets out more details on the expectations.

In respect of the plan to create additional SRPs in BF schools, the funding model has been revised to reflect developing the provisions from the normal year of admission to the school, so from the youngest children rather than admitting to all ages. This has an affect on the speed in which compensating savings will be made, which with the impact of start-up costs for the first 2 years after opening results in a net forecast cost increase of £0.143m in 2021-22 and £0.336m in 2022-23.

To help manage this anticipated scenario, the Forum has previously agreed an SRP Development Reserve and £0.459m of balances remain available. Applying all these funds in the next 2 years would fully fund anticipated costs in 2021-22 will a small net cost of £0.020m remaining in 2022-23 which has been included in the associated forecast cost amount.

Business cases are being developed for each SRP to demonstrate the expected savings to confirm medium to long-term financial benefits. These will need to be agreed with relevant schools before agreements are concluded. No budget assumptions have been included at this stage for SRPs outside the existing group being worked with.

Other work in progress, as outlined above in paragraphs 6.11 to 6.15 such as the SEND “top up” Funding Matrix Task will need to be built into the budget forecasts as the work concludes and decisions are taken.

Annex 4 presents highlight data used for the budget assumptions and was also presented to the Forum in January. Additionally, it also illustrates spend by SEND category and placement type over the past 4 years.

Updated HNB Budget Medium term financial forecast

- 6.18 Table 1 below sets out a summary of the revised medium-term budget plan, reflecting the changes set out above. The forecast deficit at 31 March 2023 with no interventions is now £18.222m (up £0.975m from £17.247m), the anticipated savings measures are at £1.006m (down £1.289m from £2.295m) with the net deficit for 31 March 2023 predicted at £17.216m (up £2.264m from £14.952m).

- 6.19 The underlying budget gap is around £5.7m per annum and further plans need to be developed to eliminate this and any accumulated deficit. As LA funds are not permitted to be used to finance a shortfall on HNB costs, expenditure will need to be reduced to the level of DSG income.
- 6.20 Due to the volatile and unpredictable nature of pupil needs it is not always certain where the most suitable support arrangements are and where the education support will ultimately be delivered. The detailed budget changes are set out in Annex 5 and present an initial assessment which may be subject to change.

Table 1: HNB Budget: Medium term financial forecast after interventions

Item	2019-20 £m	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	2022-23 £m
<u>Forecast income:</u>				
HNB DSG income - gross	16.892	18.549	20.228	21.846
<i>Annual change</i>		1.658 9.8%	1.679 9.1%	1.618 8.0%
<u>Adjustments</u>				
Net impact of places in other LAs / NMSS	-1.101	-1.158	-1.158	-1.158
BF academy places deduction	-0.253	-0.072	-0.072	-0.072
Net retained funding	15.538	17.319	18.998	20.616
<i>Annual change</i>		1.781 11.5%	1.679 9.7%	1.618 8.5%
<u>Forecast spend - no interventions:</u>				
Forecast spend - no interventions	18.758	22.983	25.431	27.621
<i>Annual change</i>		4.225 22.5%	2.448 10.7%	2.190 8.6%
<u>Planned interventions:</u>				
SEND support stage		-0.054	-0.034	0.000
Reducing demand for EHCP		-0.082	-0.047	0.000
Review PAN at specialist providers		-0.150	-0.121	0.000
Reducing reliance on external providers		0.000	0.000	-0.043
Improved commissioning		0.000	-0.163	-0.163
Central Services:		0.000	-0.084	-0.065
Forecast impact of interventions		-0.286	-0.449	-0.271
Cumulative		-0.286	-0.735	-1.006
Net spend after planned interventions		22.697	24.696	26.615
Start-up costs at new SRPs			0.143	0.316
Draw down from SRP reserve			-0.143	-0.316
<u>Forecast funding gap after interventions:</u>				
Annual	3.220	5.378	5.698	5.999
Unallocated DSG reserve opening balance	-3.079	0.141	5.519	11.217
Unallocated DSG reserve closing balance	0.141	5.519	11.217	17.216
Deficit as a % of gross annual income		30%	55%	79%

Responsibilities of the Schools Forum

- 6.21 The Forum is requested to agree that the Executive Member sets the 2021-22 budget on these proposals, as summarised in Table 1. Annex 5 sets out the detailed budget changes with Annex 6 showing the summary HNB budget outturn currently being forecast for 2020-21 and that proposed for 2021-22. Whilst the duty to set the HNB budget rests with LAs, the views of the Forum are an important part of the process and have always been considered by the Executive Member.
- 6.22 There are 2 specific areas on HNB budgets where the Forum has a statutory role to play in setting the HNB, and this involves “giving a view” on:
- arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding
 - arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding

DfE consultation on a review of the HNB NFF to LAs

Overview

- 6.23 On 10 February, the DfE launched a consultation on a review of the HNB NFF to LAs which seeks views on a small number of changes for 2022-23 and sets out the intention to consider further changes in the context of a wider review of the SEND and AP system. The aim “of the SEND review, 6 years on from the reforms inaugurated by the Children and Families Act 2014, is to make sure the system is consistent, high quality, sustainable, and integrated across education, health and care”.
- 6.24 This first stage of consultation is to consider specific questions about improvements to the formula funding distribution that could be implemented for 2022-23, but which would not pre-empt wider and longer-term changes resulting from the current SEND review or AP reforms. There are also some more general questions on longer-term changes to the funding arrangements. Overall, 5 questions are included.
- 6.25 The consultation is asking for views specifically about the way that high needs funding is allocated through the national funding formula, and not about the overall level of funding.

The consultation document can be viewed at:

[High needs consultation document \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-needs-national-funding-formula-consultation)

The response document can be viewed at:

[High needs national funding formula – proposed changes - Department for Education - Citizen Space](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-needs-national-funding-formula-consultation)

Areas relating to possible changes from 2022-23

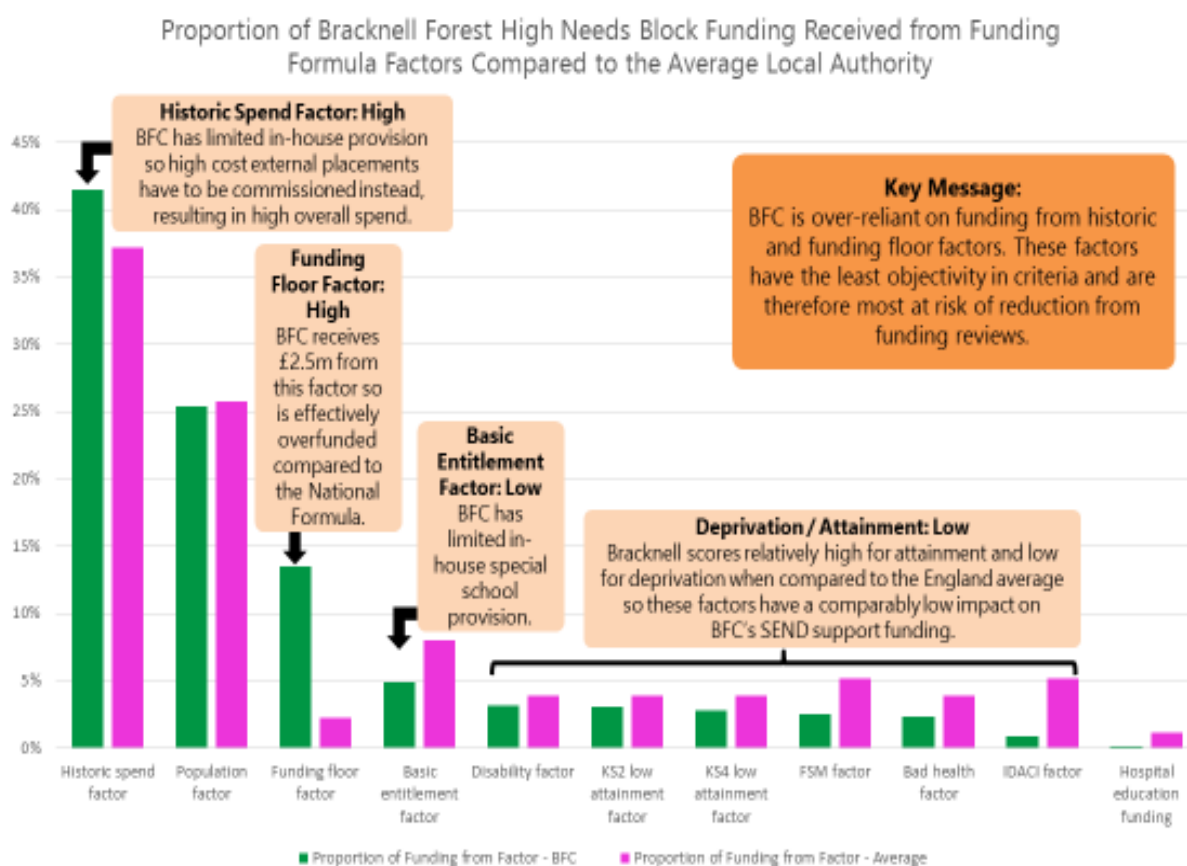
- 6.26 There are 2 areas where views are being sought for possible changes from 2022-23, both of which relate to the historic spend factor which is the most financially significant factor in the NFF, distributing 34% of funds in 2021-22 (but down from 44% in 2018-19, the first year of the HNB NFF).
1. The core data used for this factor is proposed to be changed from 2017-18 budget data to 2017-18 actual outturn. At the time of setting the original HNB NFF, this was the most up to date financial information. **(Question 1)**
 2. The significance of this factor, which is the main proxy used for local circumstances that can significantly affect LAs levels of spending on high needs, and that take time to change, has reduced over time. This formula lump sum is calculated using 50% of each LAs planned expenditure on high needs in 2017-18 and views are being sought on whether this should now be increased. **(Question 2)**
- 6.27 In terms of the potential impact on BF from any changes that could be made for 2022-23, the DfE has provided an outline illustration of the change had it been in place for 2021-22. It should be noted that whilst a useful data set, the impact would not be exactly the same in 2022-23, because of the other data that will be updated in the formula, and because the overall level of increase will not be the same. It also assumes the Historic Spend factor allocates 40% of funds, a reduction of 4% from the original 44%, but an increase of 6% compared to the current 34% value.
- 6.28 The DfE illustration of financial impact at LA level indicates a £0.738m reduction in funding to BF as the HNB was underspending budget at that time and the new data proposed to be used is therefore a lower amount than that currently used in the calculation. However, on the possible future model, based on current funding policy, this would be negated by the Funding Floor factor to result in no financial impact. Within the first 2 years of the current 3-year Education Spending review period (ends 31 March 2023), the DfE uses the Funding Floor factor to set a minimum per head increase of 8% and a maximum per head increase of 12%. This overrides lower increases that would be delivered through the normal HNB NFF and operates in a similar way to the Minimum Per Pupil Funding level required in the main BF Funding Formula for Schools. As BF has been receiving the minimum 8% per head increase, any reduction in funding from this change would have no financial effect.
- 6.29 Importantly, if implemented, this changed would further increase the significance of the Funding Floor factor to BF as it would allocate around 18% of total funds received, compared to the all England average of around 2%.
- 6.30 The historic spend factor is the most financially significant for BF accounting for 38% of income against the national average of 34%. Other factors are less financially beneficial. Therefore, in general, any increase in funds through this factor should be supported, although the re-setting of the base data for its calculation has a detrimental impact. Overall, the most important consideration for BF on the historic cost factor question is the continuation of the Funding Floor factor at a minimum per head increase of 8%. The financial illustrations assume this, but no direct mention is made of the future operation of Funding Floor factor as this is outside the scope.
- 6.31 Indeed, the DfE have calculated that the different historic spend amounts, if used in the 2021-22 national funding formula calculations, would have meant that 47% of authorities would have experienced a change in their allocations, with 35 receiving a

larger increase and 36 receiving a smaller increase. For 79 authorities, including BF, the effect of the 8% funding floor and the 12% limit on gains would have been to override the impact of the change in the historic spend factor value.

- 6.32 As well as potential changes to the Historic Spend factor, the DfE is also considering how best to reflect low prior attainment in the HNB NFF.
- 6.33 As with the NFF for schools, the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic has prevented the availability of data that would normally be used for funding purposes i.e. 2020 key stage 2 test data and or GCSE exam results. Using the same data from 2015 to 2019 as used in the 2021-22 formula is one option but has been discounted by the DfE as the series would continue to include older data from before the changes to the tests and exams in 2016. The DfE therefore propose to update the series using 5 years' data from 2016, and to substitute the most recent 2019 data in place of the missing 2020 attainment data. **Question 4** seeks views on this approach and any alternative suggestions for implementation from 2022-23.

The following diagram sets out the allocation of funds to BF through the HNB NFF compared to the England average in 2020-21.

High Needs Block Funding Allocation to BFC vs. Other LAs



Areas relating to possible changes beyond 2022-23

- 6.34 The DfE considers that using a past level of spend as a factor in the funding formula is not the perfect long-term solution to reflect local issues in the funding arrangements. While historic spending reflects local circumstances that should be acknowledged in the funding distribution, it can also reflect aspects of the local system - such as where there is poor value for money - that should not be reinforced through funding allocations. Past levels of spending also reflect the situation in a local area as it was, and, over time, will cease to reflect current patterns of need or demand. Ideally, therefore, the DfE are seeking to replace the historic spend factor with an alternative factor or factors, that better reflect these local issues, and are able to be kept up to date.
- 6.35 Research previously commissioned on this by the DfE by the Isos Partnership reported that in any single area the factors which shaped spending on children and young people with SEND were both complex and multiple. At a higher level, however, they identified three main drivers, in addition to the local demographic context that determined underlying needs.
1. Parental preference was considered a critical driver of the nature and quantity of different types of provision available in a local area
 2. The capacity and ability of all types of provider in a local area to provide high-quality education for children and young people with SEND, and the readiness of those providers to work together in support of a common endeavour to improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND
 3. The strategic decisions that local authorities make about how they will meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, the pattern of provision that they have, or will, put in place
- 6.36 The DfE are considering how far to reflect local variation in provision and the consequent funding distribution, and the factors to use (**Question 3**). There is a need to avoid perverse incentives: for example, to create more placements in special schools in order to gain more funding, when some of those pupils would make better progress if they were well supported in a mainstream school. Any factor would also need to be "fit for purpose" for use in a funding context: for example, that the data used are collected uniformly across the country, with robust assurance processes in place; and that the data set is relatively stable from year-to-year, so as not to subject local authorities to significant changes in their funding.
- 6.37 The final question in the DfE consultation relates to making sure that the funding system supports the outcome from the SEND review, and any changes to AP arrangements, which could include whether system changes are needed to provide more consistency in EHC needs assessment and planning process, and to improve other aspects of the SEND arrangements. This is expected to feature again in a second DfE consultation planned for later in 2021 and may consider the appropriateness of the existing proxy factors of population, disability living allowances, children in bad health, low prior attainment at KS2 and KS4, free school meals and income deprivation affecting children index. **Question 5** seeks ideas on factors that could be added to the current formula, or that could replace the current proxies
- 6.38 Annex 7 sets out the DfE questions and the supporting information provided by the DfE in the response document. The consultation has a deadline of 24 March, and a reply is in the process of being completed for BFC.

Next Steps

- 6.39 The views of the Schools Forum regarding the final 2021-22 budget proposals from the council will be considered, and where agreed, included in the final budget proposals that will be presented for approval by the Executive Member on 23 March. Based on the expectation that changes will be made to service provisions during the year through the partnership work with schools and other providers, the Forum is recommended to agree that appropriate arrangements are in place for the education of pupils with SEN and use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school.
- 6.40 Considerable further work is required to eliminate the circa £5.7m underlying budget gap which in the first instance will be progressed through the HNB sub-group.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the main body of the report.

Director of Finance

- 7.2 The financial implications anticipated at this stage confirm the expected significant financial difficulties that will arise on HNB budgets. A number of developments are planned that are expected to contribute over the medium-term to widening choice and cost reduction. However, a significant funding gap remains, and further work is required to move to a sustainable budget position.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 The budget proposals ensure funding is targeted towards vulnerable groups and therefore an EIA is not required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 There are strategic risks around ensuring all schools remain financially stable as well as ensuring pupils with SEND receive timely and appropriate support for their education. A failure to develop a plan for a sustainable HNB budget will create a risk of needing to make more drastic changes at a later date.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 The Schools Forum, including the HNB sub-group and the People Directorate Management Team.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Formal consultation and written reports.

Representations Received

8.3 Incorporated into this report.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

Paul Clark, Business Partner – People Directorate
<mailto:paul.clark@bracknell-forest.gov.uk>

(01344 354054)

Kashif Nawaz, Head of Children's Support Services
kashif.nawaz@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

(01344 353318)

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Doc. Ref [https://bfccouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/\(103\)_110321/2021-22_HNB_Budget_Preparations_-_March_2021.docx](https://bfccouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools_Forum/(103)_110321/2021-22_HNB_Budget_Preparations_-_March_2021.docx)

Overview of the HNB Budget

1. The HNB element of the DSG supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and is intended to fund a continuum of provision for relevant pupils and students from 0-24. LAs receive funding for these provisions from the DfE and in general commission services from providers. In-house arrangements are made in a relatively small number of areas.
2. The DfE has determined that where the cost of provision is above £10,000 it will be classified as high needs. In such circumstances, a “place-plus” approach to funding will generally be used which can be applied consistently across all providers that support high needs pupils and students as follows:
 - a. **Element 1 or “core education funding”**: equivalent to the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) in mainstream schools, which the DfE has stated the national average is around £4,000.
 - b. **Element 2 or “additional support funding”**: a budget for providers to deliver additional support for high needs pupils or students with additional needs of up to £6,000.
Specialist and Alternative Providers (AP), such as special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) only cater for high needs pupils and therefore receive a minimum £10,000 (Element 1 funding plus Element 2) per agreed place.
 - c. **Element 3, or “top-up funding”**: funding above elements 1 and 2 to meet the total cost of the education provision required by an individual high needs pupil or student, as based on the pupil’s or student’s assessed needs. This element is paid to all provider types, for pupils with assessed needs above the £10,000 threshold.
3. Additionally, HNB DSG is also intended to be used where high needs provisions are not arranged in the form of places e.g. specialist support for pupils with sensory impairments, or tuition for pupils not able to attend schools etc.
4. The statutory regulatory framework requires the council to decide on the arrangements to be put in place for the HNB and associated resources and for the Forum to comment on their appropriateness. The current approach in BF is to develop the services during the year in partnership with schools and has therefore created a sub-committee of the Forum to gather views and help shape arrangements. Final budget decisions are taken in March each year by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning.

DfE Reforms

5. A new National Funding Formula (HNB NFF) was introduced in April 2018 to replace a system that largely allocated funding based on historic spending decisions. The core elements of funds distribution to LAs now comprises:
 1. **Basic entitlement** (initially £4,000 per pupil / student that the LA is responsible for educating that is attending an SEN institution)
 2. **Historic spend** (50% of 2017-18 baseline amount agreed with each LA)
 3. **Population** (Share of national budget allocation based on projected 2-18 year olds at the relevant mid-year as a proportion of all 2-18 year olds)

4. **Free school meals** (Share of national budget allocation based on resident pupils eligible to FSM as a proportion of all pupils eligible to FSM)
5. **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of 2-18 year olds in IDACI bands A-F as a proportion of all pupils in IDACI bands A-F)
6. **Bad health** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident children aged 0-16 in bad or very bad health in the general population census as a proportion of all projected children in bad or very bad health)
7. **Disability** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident children aged 0-16 for whom parents are eligible to disability living allowance (DLA) as a proportion of all eligible DLA families)
8. **Key Stage 2 low attainment** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident pupils who did not attain level 3 in reading tests plus those that did not attain a scaled score in reading test or were not entered as a proportion of all relevant children)
9. **Key stage 4 low attainment** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident pupils who did not attain 5 GCSEs at grades A* to G as a proportion of all relevant children).
10. **Hospital education** (LA specific funding based on budgeted spend)

The BF allocation through the HNB NFF are illustrated in the diagram below.

6. One of the key outcomes for the DfE from these reforms is to ensure that any change in the amount of funding allocated to individual LAs must be introduced slowly to allow those areas facing reductions time to adjust to the new amounts. This is because expenditure is mainly incurred on educational fees and these generally remain unchanged throughout the course of each pupil's time in the relevant institution which often presents commitments for over 10 years. Therefore, in addition to the core factors set out above, there will be further adjustments to each LAs HNB funding as follows:

1. An funding floor adjustment to add the cash amount difference where the normal operation of the HNB formula does not deliver at least a minimum increase in per head (2-18 year old population) funding compared to the baseline amount of expenditure (8% for 2021-22). The protection is not calculated on elements of the formula that are subject to later updates and are in proportion to estimated population changes (so a projected decrease in population will result in a lower overall cash percentage increase, subject to a cash protection).

There is a net £174m cost to the Funding Floor in 2021-22, which amounts to 2.2% of total funding and illustrates the importance of moving to the new formula in a measured way.

For LAs experiencing a reduction in population, there is a second funding floor adjustment to ensure total cash funding does not fall below the baseline amount. The funding floor adjustment is not applied to the basic entitlement factor i.e. current numbers of high needs pupils and students or the import / export adjustment (see note 2. directly below) as the DfE want to ensure that year on year changes in these factors are reflected in a LAs funding.

2. An import / export adjustment so those LAs sending out more pupils to other LAs lose £6,000 per pupil funding to reflect the requirement of the resident LA to finance all place funding in the SEN institutions in their area, irrespective of which LA places the student. This amount is added to the £4,000 per pupil /

student funding included in the main formula to achieve the £10,000 place funding cost. This is a lagged adjustment. LA funding allocations are adjusted from January census data, but actual places purchased will generally be based on actual student numbers taking up places during the year.

This removes some of the unfairness in the previous funding system where LAs did not generally contribute to Element 1 and 2 costs for their students in institutions in other LAs.

7. An area cost adjustment will be applied where relevant (7.4% uplift for BFC) to all factors other than historic spend as this will already reflect local cost variations. This recognises additional costs in some areas, most notably enhanced salary payments in and around London, and follows the same approach adopted by the DfE in the funding reforms introduced for mainstream schools. The HNB area cost adjustment comprises 2 elements: one for non-teaching staff; and another for teaching staff. As the ratio of teaching to non-teaching staff in special schools is different from that in mainstream schools, this calculation is different to that used in the School NFF (where the BFC area cost adjustment is 5.6%).
8. The new HNB NFF will deliver significantly less funding to BF than the current arrangements. The draft 2021-22 HNB DSG update from the DfE indicates £2.857m funding protection for BFC, which is around 14% of total funding which clearly illustrates the importance of the funding floor adjustment from a BF perspective. On average, LAs receive 2.1% of their HNB funding through this factor.

2020-21 progress on planned Service Developments – as at December 2020 and previously reported to January 2021 Schools Forum

1. The January Forum meeting received an update on service developments and performance against the budget expectations. More work has now been undertaken which is summarised below.

Original developments

2. In setting the original budget, a significant amount of change in service delivery was agreed with the Schools Forum and approved by the Executive Member. However, a number of factors have impacted the ability to make the changes as originally intended including:
 1. The coronavirus pandemic. This has diverted priorities within the council and schools away from the HNB developmental projects
 2. Capacity to take forward the range of immediate developments needed.
 3. Lack of opportunities to collaborate with key partners.
 4. The Annual Reviews and Placement Monitoring officer took up post at the start of August. Although a recent appointment, developments are needed to develop a more robust approach to annual reviews particularly for the post 16 cohort. Initial forecasts suggest that at least 10% of plans could cease as a result of this approach potentially saving £0.150k per annum. Equally important would be the precedent that would be set by establishing this approach to manage processes and expectations for future years.
 5. The SEN finance officer formally started at the start of August. An operating model needs to be developed linked to placement decisions as set out in the Code of Practice.

Update on new initiatives

3. The need to build and grow capacity across the borough is becoming ever-more pressing. The number of EHCPs continues to grow significantly each year with a 38% increase in resultant purchased places expected in the 4 years to January 2021.
4. The original developments to HNB services and budgets were the first step towards significant change. The following section sets out progress made over the autumn term against these priorities. More detailed work, to establish business cases for each development, is underway.

a) Ensuring appropriate resources across the continuum of support & reducing cost pressures

- i) The Expressions of Interest (EOI) for primary age specially resourced provision for children with autism has been completed. Two schools submitted expressions of interest and both have had agreement in principle to go ahead. Further work will be done to agree their revenue funding levels. These two provisions will provide a further 20 places in borough for children with autism who struggle to cope full-time in mainstream school.
- ii) SLAs are being agreed for the Special Resource Provisions (SRPs) developed as part of the Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF). Across the new developments,

up to 90 new places will be created (this figure could be higher, but we are still awaiting some schools to confirm their capacity), in both secondary and primary phases.

- iii) An Expression of Interest process is being planned for 2021, this time focussing on specially resourced provision for secondary school aged pupils with autism.
- iv) Working with Kennel Lane School supporting their work ensuring appropriate placements are made and that these specialist places are there for those pupils with significantly more complex levels of need.

b) Working with commissioning to improve provision & cost efficiencies

- i) Review residential placements for complex needs including those for children and young people under Child Protection or who are looked after by September 2021.
- ii) Work has also started to take control of post-16 expenditure, taking a commissioning approach to work with existing post-16 providers as well as looking at procuring new provision. In particular, we are keen to work with Adults' Services to develop new provision which will support young people with SEND into a meaningful adult life.

c) Identifying & progressing next steps for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision

- i) Analysis of the feasibility of an SEMH Hub is underway. To support this, officers from a number of services have come together to look at how and where we gather data. This will provide a process for ongoing analysis, as well as reliable data projections which is needed to make a case for the new school.

d) Improved control of number of EHCPs

In addition to new developments which will add places across the borough, we are looking at how we ensure we are maximising existing capacity. To this end, we have completed our consultation with all schools across the continuum of need. This includes:

- i) An improved overview of a consistent application of the Graduated Approach.
- ii) offering the right interventions to schools at the right time via the SEND Intervention Fund/referral to Children's Support Services (as appropriate). This will be in place from January 2021 and details of how to make referrals will be shared as well as published on the local offer.
- iii) We are also reviewing and developing our approach to Annual Reviews specifically for phased transfers.

e) Better governance of SEND processes and procedures

Current governance and decision-making around the current SEND panel processes, intervention hub and high needs funding allocation have been completed:

- i) Formal consultation with stakeholders regarding proposed changes to were carried out and the new ways of working have been implemented or will be from January 2021.

- ii) Planning is underway to continue the work with schools on updating the funding matrix. This is expected to continue apace in the new year. A Task and Finish group, from the Schools' Forum Sub-Group is meeting on 20 January and 25 February, by which point an interim funding matrix should be finalised and agreed. Further work may need to continue to refine the matrix over the first half of the year.

f) Strategic Commissioning

The main areas of progress over the Autumn term for the Commissioning Team have included:

- Update: SEND needs and sufficiency analysis completed
- Development and sign off of SEND Commissioning plan and priorities
- A new Commissioning Team structure was set up in June 2019 incorporating a Children's Commissioning team covering SEND, CLA, Care Leavers, Children with disabilities and Early Help.
- Supporting the local area COVID 19 response and provider engagement across Children's, Adults, and Integration.

g) Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy – East Berkshire Service Overview

The Directors across the three East Berkshire LA's (RBWM, Slough and BFC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have agreed to work together for developing a **joint approach** to the commissioning and delivery of Integrated Therapies.

Approach to date:

Integrated Therapies for children and young people across East Berkshire are currently commissioned through a variety of arrangements by the three local authorities and the CCG. In order to develop this approach, it is important to gain an understanding of the need, demand, future demand, and cost of the services across East Berkshire.

Progress:

- The CCG supported by the LA's has been focused on working collaboratively with BHFT on improvements to the OT services and reducing the current waiting times.
- Collaboration between BFC and BHFT has resulted in strengthened monitoring around SALT.
- East Berkshire CYPIT needs analysis completed.
- Best practice sessions with other LA's including Ealing.
- This work has allowed us to develop an initial understanding of service need and challenges but is based on limited engagement due to COVID and a lack of robust data.

Next steps

- Develop a detailed project plan and timeline
- Discovery phase to understand the as is picture across East Berkshire – the current model, pathway and the challenges and barriers around delivering CYPIT from BHFT's perspective.

- The experience, outcomes, and impact of CYPIT for children and young people.
- Co-production and engagement with schools, BHFT, CYP and families to develop a service model and pathways.
- Funding of therapies across the three LA's – SEND funding and High Needs Block.
- Agree commissioning and contracting model with a view to having new arrangements in place for April 2022.

h) Partnership working and Monitoring of SaLT in Bracknell Forest

Local developments

An established quarterly contract monitoring for SaLT is now place. This includes:

- BHFT service leads, BFC Commissioning and Operational leads from SEND and Early years
- Focused on early years, school age and 16 – 25 provision
- Activity data including referrals, contacts and waits
- Developing qualitative feedback too
- BHFT and BFC maintained good contact and all monitoring meetings continued utilising remote technology.
- No concerns at this time around waiting lists, however work around tribunals can be time and resource intensive for BHFT therefore joint work to map out the work/process to identify where learning and improvements can be made will take place in 2021.

Summary

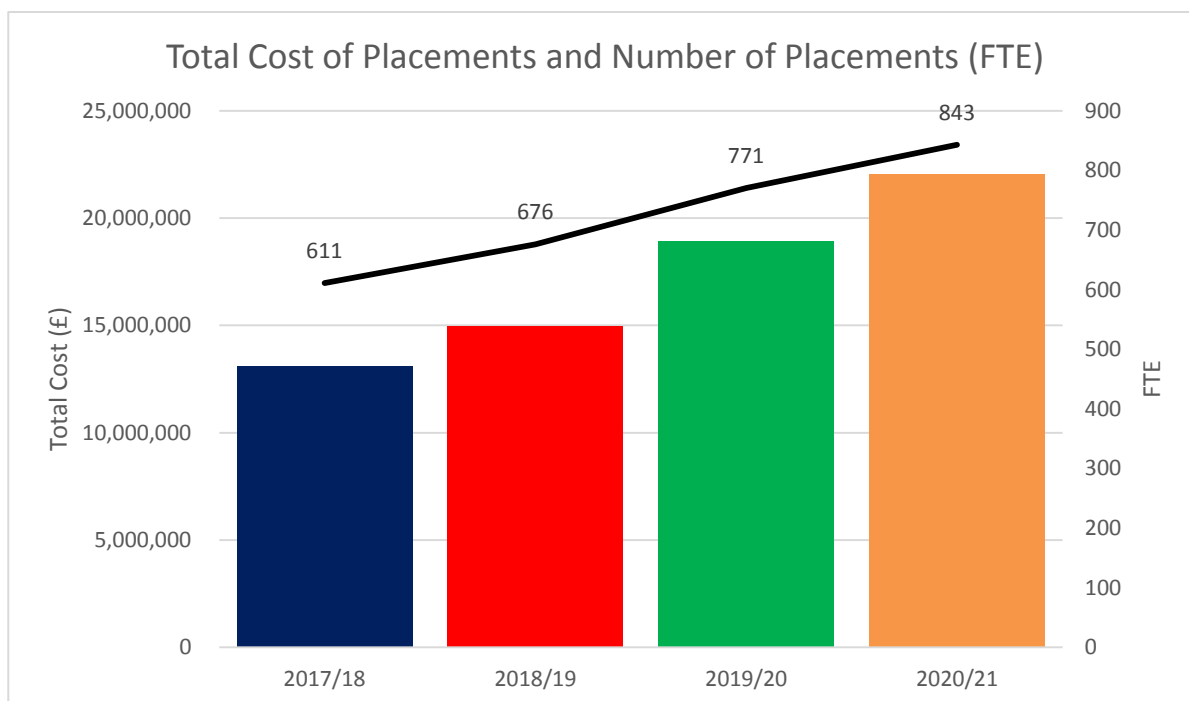
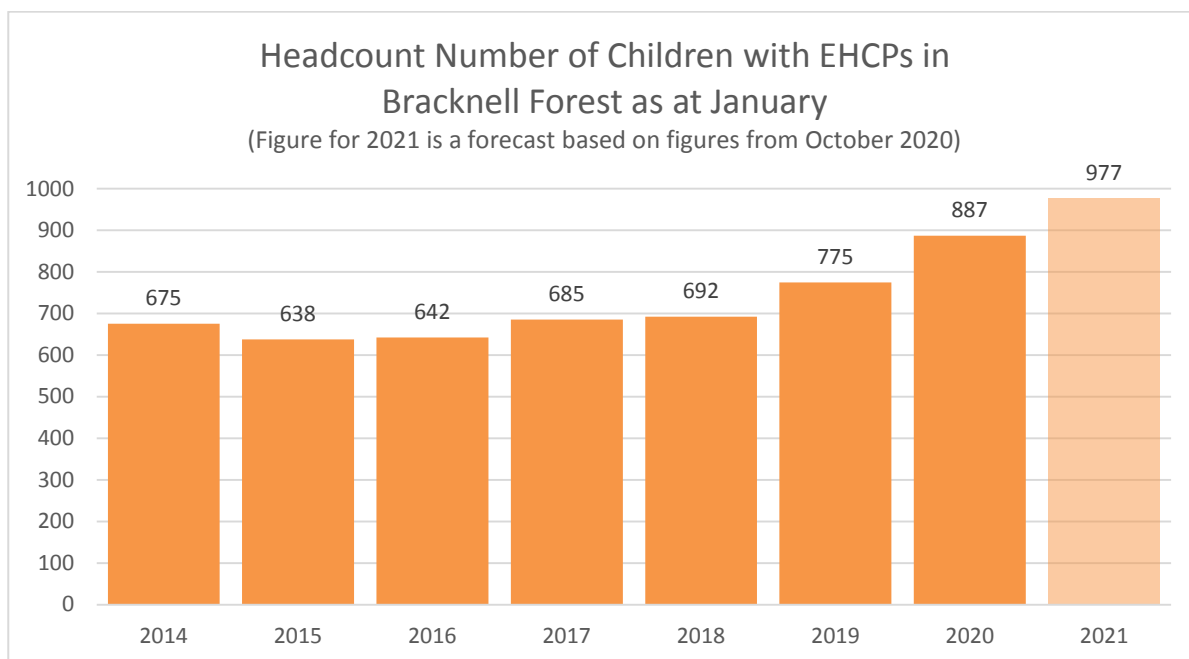
- Recovery and restoration planning is ongoing and face to face contacts in schools continue to increase.
- A blended model of service delivery continues to be in place consisting of face to face contacts, telephone, and online consultations to best meet the clinical needs of the CYP.
- BHFT training packages are being developed that can be delivered virtually in order to support new working practices and ensure sustainability within the service.
- The CYPIT online resource has provided a level of ongoing support and advice, easily accessed by families.
- Feedback is now automatically requested in the form of an online questionnaire at the end of every 'One Consultation' session. Once online training commences, feedback will be requested at the end of every session which will be analysed, shared with BFC and used to inform service delivery and development.

HNB Budget – medium term savings summary

Item	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	2022-23 £m	Scaling for risk	Comments
<u>Planned changes:</u>					Note: some proposals can be categorised differently or across multiple areas
Prior years on-going savings		-0.286	-0.449		All assumptions subject to change and therefore need to be viewed as a guide.
<u>SEND support stage</u>					
SEN Intervention Hub	-0.054	-0.034	0.000	15%	Assumes 10 more students retained in mainstream schools with additional support in each of the next 3 years. Savings arise from lower cost top up funding in mainstream schools compared to permanent external placement / AP support.
<u>Reducing demand for EHCP</u>					
New Special Resource Provisions		0.000	0.000	N/A	Following bids from interested schools, capital funding has been allocated for the development of in-school units to cater for pupils at risk of requiring an EHCP or with an EHCP that can be maintained in a mainstream school with additional specialist interventions. Around 80 new places are expected to become available at September 2021, with admissions generally taking place in the youngest year groups as the Units develop. The funding model expects around 20 pupils to be admitted to the new SRPs at September 2021 which is expected to reduce alternative high cost placements by 6. Maintained schools and the HNB will contribute to the operating costs which will result in greater numbers of pupils being retained in BF schools. Net costs are estimated at £0.143m in 2021-22 and a further £0.336m in 2022-23. The £0.479m total will be funded £0.459m from the SRP Development Reserve and £0.020m from HNB DSG.
Spare places at Meadow Vale Unit	-0.029	0.000	0.000	10%	The SEN Provision at Meadow Vale had 3 vacant places. The funding has been withdrawn. 6 further vacant places are being funded in 2021-22.
SEMH assessment and direct provision facility	0.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	Feasibility study commenced to create an outline 30 place SEMH assessment and 40 place provision on an existing school site with spare capacity. Potential for phased opening from September 2023 with planned return to the borough for suitable students currently placed in similar, external provision. No financial impact in the current financial plan timescale.

Item	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	2022-23 £m	Scaling for risk	Comments
<u>Reducing demand for EHCP</u> Savings from Rise ASD Secondary Resource provision	-0.053	-0.047	0.000	10%	Assumes 5 BF students are admitted each September at reduced cost to savings arising from older students leaving education at alternative specialist provider until Unit reaches capacity at September 2021. Future option to consider scope for post-16 provisions / collaboration with B&W College.
<u>Review PAN at specialist providers</u> Extra 5 in-house AP places at College Hall PRU	-0.050	-0.062	0.000	0%	Increase the number of funded places by 5 from April 2020 and again in April 2021. The extra £25k per place will be offset by savings of around £10k per place compared to other AP providers
Extra 10 places at KLS	-0.100	-0.059	0.000	0%	Increase the number of funded places by 10 from April 2020. The extra £25k per place will be offset by savings of around £10k per place compared to other similar specialist providers.
<u>Reducing reliance on external providers</u> Increase BF placements at KLS	0.000	0.000	-0.043	30%	Ensure 4-5 BF students replace some of the circa 35 OLA students at KLS each year to ensure better value, high quality, local placements.
<u>Improved commissioning</u> Inflation management	0.000	-0.059	-0.059	15%	Assumes save 0.5% per annum on core inflation assumption on external providers
Block contracts	0.000	-0.056	-0.056	20%	Economies from prices as providers received guaranteed income.
Price negotiation with providers	0.000	-0.048	-0.048	20%	Undertake individual negotiation with providers admitting 4 or more students to secure price discounts.
<u>Central Services:</u> - Reviews to be completed	0.000	-0.084	-0.065	20%	A range of services will be reviewed for quality, impact, and value for money.
Forecast impact of interventions	-0.286	-0.449	-0.271		
<u>Funding gap after interventions</u>					
Annual	5.378	5.698	5.999		
Cumulative	5.519	11.217	17.216		

Summary Data SEN trend data

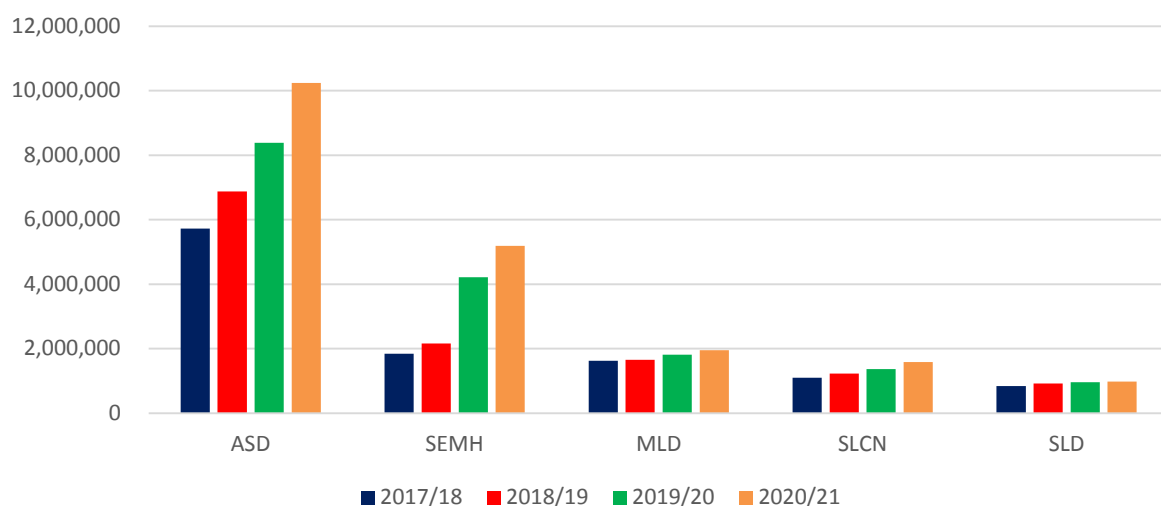


69% increase in total spend

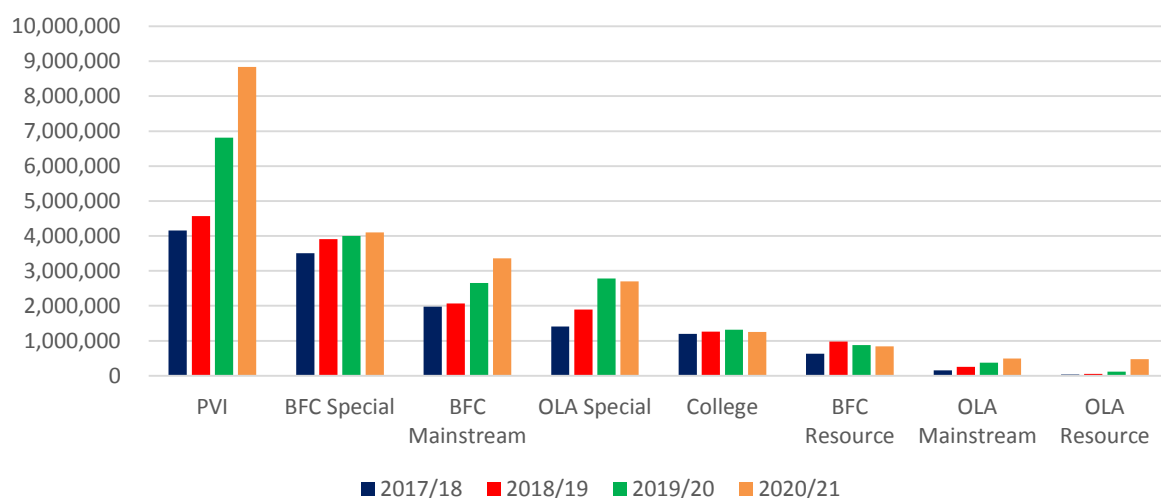
38% increase in FTE

22% increase in average placement cost

Total Cost Per Need for Five SEND Categories Forecast to Result in Highest Costs in 2020/21



Total Cost of SEND Placements Per Provision Type



	PVI	BFC Special	BFC Mainstream	OLA Special	College	BFC Resource	OLA Mainstream	OLA Resource
Proportion of total costs in 17/18	32%	27%	15%	11%	9%	5%	1%	0%
No of FTE 17/18	80	152	196	57	82	24	14	4
Proportion of total costs in 20/21	40%	19%	15%	12%	6%	4%	2%	2%
No of cases 20/21	130	155	278	87	92	45	35	21

2021-22 Proposed HNB Budget detailed changes

Line Ref	Description	2020-21 Current Budget	Proposed Budget Change					Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Summary Comment on significant "Proposed Budget change"
			Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan items	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation		
A	B	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £	I

Funds Delegated to Special School

1	Kennel Lane Special School - original budget (BFC responsibility only)	4,390,090	0	208,000	0	139,000	56,890	4,793,980	Current estimate is for initial budget requirement of 198 purchased places (+3) and 162 FTE BFC resident Element 3 top-up payments (+11 FTE). The total January 2021 NOR (including other LA students) is 196 (+4). Extra 1 BF student, 3 extra from other LAs. Growth pressure reflects re-banding exercise to ensure all BF pupils receive at least £12,745 "top up"
119									
2	Kennel Lane Special School - in-year budget changes (BFC responsibility only)	95,930	-21,000	0	0	0	0	74,930	The increasing average cost of Element 3 payments for students limits further increases indicating a lower on-going requirement than the 2020-21 forecast outturn.

4,486,020	-21,000	208,000	0	139,000	56,890	4,868,910
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Line Ref	Description	2020-21 Current Budget	Proposed Budget Change					Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Summary Comment on significant "Proposed Budget change"
			Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan items	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation		
A	B	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £	I

Maintained Schools & Academies

3	BF Secondary School SEN Resource Unit	790,860	0	19,810	0	12,530	11,290	834,490	Provision for a cost increase relating to admitting pupils with support needs above the average.
4	BF Primary School SEN Resource Unit	160,650	0	0	0	3,340	1,780	164,770	1 Empty place funded at Speech and Language Unit, 5 empty places at Rainbow early years provision. Total cost £0.060m.
5	New SEN in-school Provision	103,000	-103,000	0	0	0	0	0	No impact on DSG funding. Finance from Reserve as per row 13 below. Expect around 20 places occupied by BF pupils at September 2021.
6	BF mainstream schools - Element 3 top up payments	1,289,020	612,000	214,490	0	2,850	40,840	2,159,200	Growth pressure reflects the expected impact from increased placements.
7	BF resident students attending other LA schools	2,001,480	459,000	308,310	-47,000	3,690	49,210	2,774,690	Growth pressure reflects the expected impact from increased placements.
8	BF mainstream schools - Element 3 short term interventions	10,100	0	0	0	0	0	10,100	
9	BF mainstream schools – top up to schools with disproportionate number of HN pupils	40,390	0	0	0	0	870	41,260	
10	Element 3 Early Years	35,340	11,000	0	0	0	1,000	47,340	
11	Post-16 SEND pupils in maintained school sixth forms	28,000	0	0	0	0	0	28,000	
12	SEN Hub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	As agreed by the Forum, operational costs are funded from SEN Strategic Reserve, so no contribution required from DSG funding.

4,458,840	979,000	542,610	-47,000	21,410	104,990	6,059,850
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13: Memo	SRP costs funded from Reserve	0	0	143,000	0	0	0	0	Planned spend fully funded by Reserve.
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Line Ref	Description	2020-21 Current Budget	Proposed Budget Change					Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Summary Comment on significant "Proposed Budget change"
			Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan items	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation		
A	B	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £	I

NMSS & Colleges

14	Pre-16 provisions	4,846,170	1,947,000	735,290	-325,000	30,000	135,860	7,369,320	Growth pressure reflects the expected impact from increased placements. Savings plan items are impact from actions at Annex 3.
15	Post-16 provisions	1,597,710	-42,000	201,080	-15,000	0	31,110	1,772,900	Growth pressure reflects the expected impact from increased placements. Savings plan items are impact from actions at Annex 3.

6,443,880	1,905,000	936,370	-340,000	30,000	166,970	9,142,240
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Education out of School

16	College Hall PRU	870,960	75,260	24,210	89,000	31,000	10,720	1,101,150	Reflects the impact of permanent funding for 56 places (+5) and 48 Element 3 top-up placements (+12) to reflect the cost base of the provision. Savings Plan reflects costs funded from reduced external places.
17	Home Tuition	431,310	197,000	0	-34,000	0	12,570	606,880	Savings Plan reflects savings from extra places at BF provisions
18	Outreach	107,030	1,000	0	0	0	1,570	109,600	
19	Alternative Provision for Primary Aged pupils without a statement	60,690	138,000	0	-2,000	0	7,940	204,630	
20	Alternative Provision for Secondary Aged pupils without a statement	96,720	99,000	0	-29,000	0	7,820	174,540	Savings Plan reflects savings from extra places at BF provisions
21	Other externally purchased Alternative Provision	35,640	71,000	75,000	-28,000	0	4,260	157,900	Growth pressure reflects the expected impact from increased placements. Savings Plan reflects savings from extra places at BF provisions
22	Excluded pupil provision	19,240	0	0	0	0	1,130	20,370	
23	Share of Head of Service	23,930	0	0	0	0	0	23,930	

1,645,520	581,260	99,210	-4,000	31,000	46,010	2,399,000
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Line	Description	2020-21	Proposed Budget Change					Proposed	Summary Comment on significant "Proposed Budget
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Ref		Current Budget	Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan items	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation	2021-22 Budget	change"
A	B	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £	I

Other SEN Services

24	Autism Support Unit	85,660	0	0	0	2,570	0	88,230	
25	Sensory Consortium Service	244,620	0	0	0	5,870	2,050	252,540	
26	Speech and Language Services	217,620	0	0	0	0	6,180	223,800	
27	Occupational Therapy	38,040	0	0	0	0	1,080	39,120	
28	Integrated Therapies	21,520	0	0	0	0	430	21,950	
29	Medical support to pupils pre 16	388,090	0	0	-4,000	0	7,760	395,850	
30	Equipment for SEN Pupils	22,510	0	0	0	0	450	22,960	
31	SEN Tribunals	50,270	0	0	0	0	340	50,610	
32	Support for Learning	123,120	0	0	0	3,340	0	126,460	
33	TASS Learning Support	59,540	0	0	0	570	0	60,110	
34	Traveller Education	76,640	0	0	0	0	1,240	77,880	
35	EY Management Staff	146,330	0	0	0	0	2,330	148,660	
36	Child Development Centre	239,870	0	0	0	0	4,610	244,480	
37	Share of Head of Service	35,550	0	0	0	0	0	35,550	
38	Savings Plan Management	105,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	155,000	Specialist support required to further develop and deliver the medium-term savings plan. Ensures on-going additional resource for SEN Specialist, annual review process and data analysis that was initially agreed on a temporary basis in 2020-21.
39	Savings to be identified	-84,000	84,000	0	-84,000	0	0	0	Savings plan items are impact from actions at Annex 3.
40	Standards and Effectiveness Team, Finance, HR, Business Intelligence, and other support services	191,520	0	0	0	0	0	191,520	

1,961,900	84,000	50,000	-88,000	12,350	26,470	2,046,720
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Line Ref	Description	2020-21 Current Budget	Proposed Budget Change					Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Summary Comment on significant "Proposed Budget change"
			Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan items	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation		
A	B	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £	I

Provision for cost increases: January - March 2021

41	To reflect further placements after the December calculation for 2020-21 costs	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	150,000	Costs expected to increase from December current cost forecast, with similar impact in 2021-22 financial year.
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0	150,000	0	0	0	0	150,000
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Grand Total	18,996,160	3,678,260	1,836,190	-449,000	233,760	401,330	24,696,700
TOTAL CHANGE		5,620,250					
Estimated DSG income							18,998,000
Funding Shortfall							-5,698,700

2021-22 Summary Proposed HNB Budget

PEOPLE DIRECTORATE: HIGH NEEDS BLOCK ELEMENT OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET										
	2020-21 Forecast Performance (Dec)				Proposed changes for 2021-22					
	Original Cash Budget	Virements & Budget C/Fwds	Current Approved Budget	Variance at December Over/(Under) Spend	Reset to 2021-22 full year	Growth Pressures	Savings Plan	Mainstreamed Teachers' grants	Inflation	Initial Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
High Needs Block										
Budget Allocations										
Delegated Special School Budgets	4,486	0	4,486	59	-21	208	30	140	57	4,900
Post 16 SEN and other grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintained schools and academies	4,459	0	4,459	1,124	1,129	543	-47	21	105	6,210
New SRP Units - Earmarked Reserve Funded	0	0	0	0	0	143	0	0	0	143
Non Maintained Special Schools and Colleges	6,133	311	6,444	1,905	1,905	936	-340	30	167	9,142
Education out of school	1,690	0	1,690	590	581	99	-4	31	46	2,443
Other SEN provisions and support services	1,917	0	1,917	23	84	50	-88	12	26	2,001
Provision for forecast in-year overspend	-1,677	0	-1,677	1,677	1,677	0	0	0	0	0
	17,008	311	17,319	5,378	5,355	1,979	-449	234	401	24,839
Anticipated HNB DSG Funding										18,998
Draw down from SRP Reserve										143
Forecast in-year overspend										-5,698
Forecast cumulative deficit 31 March 2021										-5,519
Forecast cumulative deficit 31 March 2022										-11,217

**Questions on DfE consultation on potential changes to the HNB NFF
February 10 to 24 March 2021**

Historic spend factor - question 1

The historic spend factor in the high needs national funding formula is the main proxy we currently use for local circumstances that can significantly affect local authorities' levels of spending on high needs, and that take time to change. This formula lump sum is calculated using 50% of each local authority's planned expenditure on high needs in 2017-18, reported by local authorities.

We now have access to actual spending data from 2017-18. We therefore propose replacing the current lump sum included in the formula calculation with an amount calculated on the basis of actual expenditure in 2017-18, as reported by each local authority.

Before answering the question below, please read section 3 of the consultation document. Annex B to that document includes further information, and for each local authority the lump sum amount that we propose to use.

Do you agree that we should replace the current lump sum included in the formula calculation with an amount calculated on the basis of actual local authority expenditure, as reported by each local authority?

Agree
Disagree
Unsure

Historic spend factor - question 2

The historic spend element of the high needs national funding formula has remained at a cash-flat level since the introduction of the national formula in 2018-19, moving from 44% of the overall formula funding in 2018-19 to 34% in the 2021-22 formula as that total funding has increased. Some local authorities may not have been able to change their spending patterns to keep pace with the percentage reduction in this factor, despite the protection afforded by the funding floor minimum increase of 8% this and next year. We are therefore considering whether to increase the proportion of funding allocated through this factor, alongside using actual expenditure amounts.

Using actual expenditure from a more recent year, and leaving the percentage at 50%, would increase the amount of the lump sum, but we are not proposing to do this as we are clear that local authorities' actual spending now or in future should not determine how much funding they receive. We could, however, increase the significance of this factor in the 2022-23 formula, by increasing the percentage of 2017-18 spending that is applied, allowing for a more gradual rate of change in the local pattern of spending.

Before answering the question below, please read section 3 of the consultation document.

Do you think that we should increase the percentage of actual expenditure in 2017-18 included in the funding formula calculation, or leave it at 50%? Use the comments box to propose a particular increase or reduction in the percentage.

Increase the percentage
Keep the percentage at 50%
Decrease the percentage
Unsure or other

Historic spend factor - question 3

We are aware that the continued use of historic spend is not the perfect long-term solution for reflecting the patterns of local demand and supply that affect spending on high needs, as those patterns will naturally change over time. As part of the funding formula review that we are carrying out, and for consideration as we develop that formula in the years after 2022-23, we are therefore seeking views on potential alternatives to the historic spend factor. Any new factors would need to be appropriate for a funding formula (e.g. the data used should be collected on a consistent basis) and would also need to avoid creating a perverse incentive (e.g. to spend more on a certain type of provision so as to gain more funding, rather than to improve the quality or appropriateness of provision).

Before answering the question below, please refer to section 3 of the consultation document.

To what extent do you agree that the funding formula should include factors that reflect historical local demand for and supply of SEND and AP provision? If you have any suggestions for such factors that could eventually replace the historic spend factor, please provide these in the comments box.

Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

Low attainment factor - question 4

The high needs national funding formula uses low attainment at both key stage 2 and key stage 4 as a proxy indicator for SEND. This figure is calculated using an average of results over the most recent 5 years of tests and exams, which for the 2022-23 formula would have meant using test and exam results from 2016 to 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 key stage 2 tests and GCSE exams were cancelled. This has resulted in no key stage 2 data, and GCSE data that would be inappropriate to use because of the inconsistencies with the results from previous years.

We have considered using the same data as used to calculate last year's attainment formula factors, but this would mean data from more than 5 years ago. Instead, we propose to calculate low attainment by using data from 2016 to 2019, but then to double the weighting of the most recent exam data from 2019. This method could be used for a further year, assuming the 2021 test and exam results are also not able to be used for this purpose.

Please refer to section 4 of the consultation document before answering the following question.

Do you agree with our proposal to update the low attainment factors using data from 2016, and to substitute the most recent 2019 data in place of the missing 2020 attainment data?

Agree
Disagree – calculate in the same way as last year
Disagree – other (please provide further details in the comments)
Unsure

SEND and AP proxies - question 5

The high needs national funding formula uses six indicators which together act as a proxy for the level of more complex SEND and need for alternative provision (AP) in an area. These indicators include: a measure of the local population of children and young people, the two low attainment measures (key stage 2 and key stage 4) referred to in question 4, two health and disability measures (the number of children in bad health and the number of families in receipt of disability living allowance), and two deprivation indicators (the number of children eligible for free school meals and a local area deprivation measure).

Numbers of EHC plans are not be used as a robust indicator of underlying need because the way they are used varies considerably across local areas, and the number of plans is therefore not necessarily directly associated with the local authority's need to spend. The ongoing SEND review is considering whether system changes are needed, to provide more consistency in EHC needs assessment and planning process, and to improve other aspects of the SEND arrangements.

Following the SEND review, we will consider whether consequent changes to these proxies that we use in the funding formula, as well as other funding changes, would be appropriate, as it is important that the proxies used support local authorities to deliver the outcomes of the review. At this stage we are keen to understand whether there are new factors either that could replace existing factors that have become out of date or otherwise unreliable, or that could be added to the formula to address types or prevalence of identified need, and we would welcome views.

Please refer to section 5 of the consultation document before giving your comments.

If you wish to offer ideas on factors that could be added to the current formula, or that could replace the current proxies, please provide further details in the comments box below.
Please provide your answer in the box below:

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