

**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**DATE: 14 MARCH 2019**

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**CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**  
**Executive Director: People**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the attached Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) to Schools Forum.

**2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **SCHOOLS FORUM NOTES the contents of the attached CSA, which indicates that there is sufficient childcare in Bracknell Forest to meet demand while noting the potential impact on demand of new homes planned for completion in 2018-19 to 2022-23.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 Section 6 and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 and part B of the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities sets out Local Authorities statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare and in order 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 The report to members, the CSA, uses a template commissioned by the Greater London Authority and endorsed by Childcare Works, the DfE Extended Entitlement roll out partner. In making an assessment of the sufficiency of the local childcare market, the CSA draws on data from the Office for National Statistics, including labour market statistics and census data, local statistical data and surveys with local providers and parents.
- 5.5 The CSA has been submitted to the executive member and will now be published to make is available to parents and childcare providers.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the report.

### Director of Finance

6.2 The Director of Finance is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise at this time but will need to be kept under review during the period of the plan, in particular in managing the impact of the forecast housing growth.

### 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 or publish the report where it is accessible to parents.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

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

### Method of Consultation

7.2 A survey to gather capacity and vacancy data was emailed to all childcare providers in Bracknell Forest. Providers submitted details of their costs via the new 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 Responses were received from 72 childcare providers to the survey and 102 parents to the consultation.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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