

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

1. Contents

2.	Overall assessment and summary	1
2.1.	About Childcare Sufficiency Assessments	1
2.2.	Overall Sufficiency in Bracknell Forest	1
2.3.	Our plans for childcare.....	3
3.	Demand for childcare	1
3.1.	Population of early years children.....	1
3.2.	Population of school age children.....	2
3.3.	Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities	3
3.4.	Characteristics of children in our area	3
3.4.1.	Deprivation	3
3.4.2.	Parents' working status	4
3.5.	Changes to the population of children in our area	4
3.6.	Future demand for early years free entitlement places	5
4.	Supply of childcare	1
4.1.	Number of early years providers and places	1
4.2.	Number of school age providers and places	1
5.	Funded Early Education	1
5.1.	Introduction to funded early education.....	1
5.2.	Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education	1
5.3.	Take up of funded early education	1
5.4.	30 hours extended entitlement applications	3
5.5.	Providers offering funded early education places.....	4
6.	Prices	1
6.1.	Prices of early years childcare	1
6.2.	Prices of school age childcare	1
7.	Quality of childcare in our area.....	1
7.1.	OFSTED inspection grades	1
8.	Parent Survey.....	1
9.	Methodology.....	2

2. Overall assessment and summary

2.1. 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 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 separate 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.

2.2. Overall Sufficiency in Bracknell Forest

Note: Data used in this report does not reflect the impact of factors influencing childcare in Bracknell Forest after August 2023, including the cost-of-living crisis, recruitment and retention crisis in the early years sector and the expansion of the free entitlements to children under 3 from April 2024.

The assessment of childcare sufficiency as presented in this report uses data gathered in the summer term 2023 when the demand for childcare is at its highest.

The summer term of 2023 witnessed a 3.2% decline, equivalent to 69 children, in the enrolment of 3 and 4-year-olds benefiting from early years funding compared to 2022. Despite this decrease, there was a modest 0.4% reduction in the utilisation of free entitlement hours by children aged 3 and 4 during the same period, amounting to a decrease of 2,511 hours.

In the case of 2-year-olds, take up of places dropped by 1% in 2023, reaching a total of 173 children. However, there was a noteworthy 6.7% increase in the number of hours accessed, totalling 30,827 hours. These figures collectively suggest that, on average, each child attended more hours per week during the

summer of 2023 compared to the previous year. The provision of early years childcare in the summer term for the last three years is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Numbers of early years children by age

<i>Term</i>	<i>Headcount – aged 2</i>	<i>Headcount – aged 3 & 4</i>	<i>Funded hours – aged 2</i>	<i>Funded hours – aged 3 & 4</i>
Summer 2021	162	2,081	27,874	553,444
Summer 2022	175	2,163	28,897	567,510
Summer 2023	173	2,094	30,827	564,999

Source: Bracknell Forest Council funding data

Analysis of the data indicates that:

- For the financial year 2023/24 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

- Starting from April 2024, the early years free entitlements will expand to encompass 15 hours of free entitlement for working parents with 2-year-old children, with a further expansion in September 2024 for working parents of children aged 9 months and older. This extension will inevitably alter the landscape of early years childcare in Bracknell Forest. Presently, there is an absence of comprehensive data to project the adequacy of early years childcare provision in Bracknell Forest beyond March 2024.

- There was insufficient provision in the following categories:
 - Childcare before and after school
 - Childcare during school holidays

- Insufficient evidence is available to make a conclusive assessment regarding the adequacy of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Nevertheless, responses from the Parental Survey have highlighted growing difficulties in accessing specialised services, particularly during school holidays. This trend seems to be correlated with the reduction in the number of childminders in the region.

2.3. Our plans for childcare

Bracknell Forest Council's priorities for planning childcare in 2024-25 are:

1. Our strategy involves collaborating closely with childcare providers to successfully execute the extension of early years free entitlements, which will be introduced in a phased manner as follows:
 - Starting in April 2024, we will implement 15 hours per week for working parents of 2-year-olds.
 - In September 2024, we will roll out 15 hours per week for working parents of children aged 9 to 23 months.
2. To comprehensively grasp the influence of shifts in family circumstances, the cost-of-living crisis, and the extension of early years free entitlements on the childcare sector in Bracknell Forest, we will persist in our ongoing efforts to:
 - Assess alterations in the childcare supply landscape.
 - Analyse shifts in childcare demand patterns.
 - Pinpoint instances where the supply-demand equilibrium is not met and collaborate with providers to bridge these gaps.
 - Assist providers in recognising and comprehending opportunities within the childcare market and effectively promoting the childcare services they provide.
3. Our ongoing efforts involve collaborating with childcare providers to sustain their operations while facilitating their comprehension and adjustment to the evolving childcare market dynamics. This includes actively engaging with childminders to explore the feasibility of introducing monthly payments. Additionally, we are committed to extending business support to providers who require assistance in navigating these changes.
4. We will inform prospective providers contemplating the establishment of new childcare services within Bracknell Forest about the current population forecast and the existing sufficiency status. In doing so, we aim to collaborate with them to minimise any potential adverse effects on the existing Early Years providers in the area.
5. Actively promoting the Bracknell Forest Local Directory, which holds information on all childcare in Bracknell Forest.
6. Early Years Forum:
 - We will maintain our collaborative efforts with the forum to enhance sufficiency and sustainability initiatives.
 - Actively promote and encourage broader participation in the forum to ensure a more diverse representation of providers.

7. School Age Childcare:

- Collaborate with both schools and childcare providers to establish sustainable wrap-around childcare solutions to meet the requirements in the new Wraparound guidance for LAs and Schools
- Sustain engagement with providers for the effective delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.

8. Mapping supply and demand for early years and childcare:

- Recruit a fixed term post, Early years and childcare sufficiency manager.
- Develop a comprehensive mechanism for assessing both supply and demand for:
 - Early years and childcare funded places for the working family entitlement (9 months to school age)
 - Wraparound childcare for primary age children (working families)
 - Children with SEND both early years and primary.

3. Demand for childcare

3.1. Population of early years children

Note: Ward-level population estimates utilised in this report are sourced from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) which uses data that predates the changes to Bracknell Forest electoral wards in May 2023. Consequently, this report uses the pre-May 2023 Bracknell Forest electoral wards. Subsequent reports will incorporate the new electoral wards where data is published in this format.

In total, there are 7,291 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 2,985 children (although some 4-year-olds will have started reception) and the most deprived of 2-year-olds, currently estimated at around 210 children.

From April 2024 the Council’s statutory duty to provide funded provision will expand to include working parents with children aged two. The duty to provide funded provision for the most deprived 2-year-olds will remain in place. Potentially the combined duties could result in the entire cohort of 2-year-olds being eligible for funded childcare from 2024. However, there is currently insufficient data to quantify the level of demand.

Table 2 shows early years children by age group in Bracknell Forest, while Figure 1 shows the distribution of early years children by Ward.

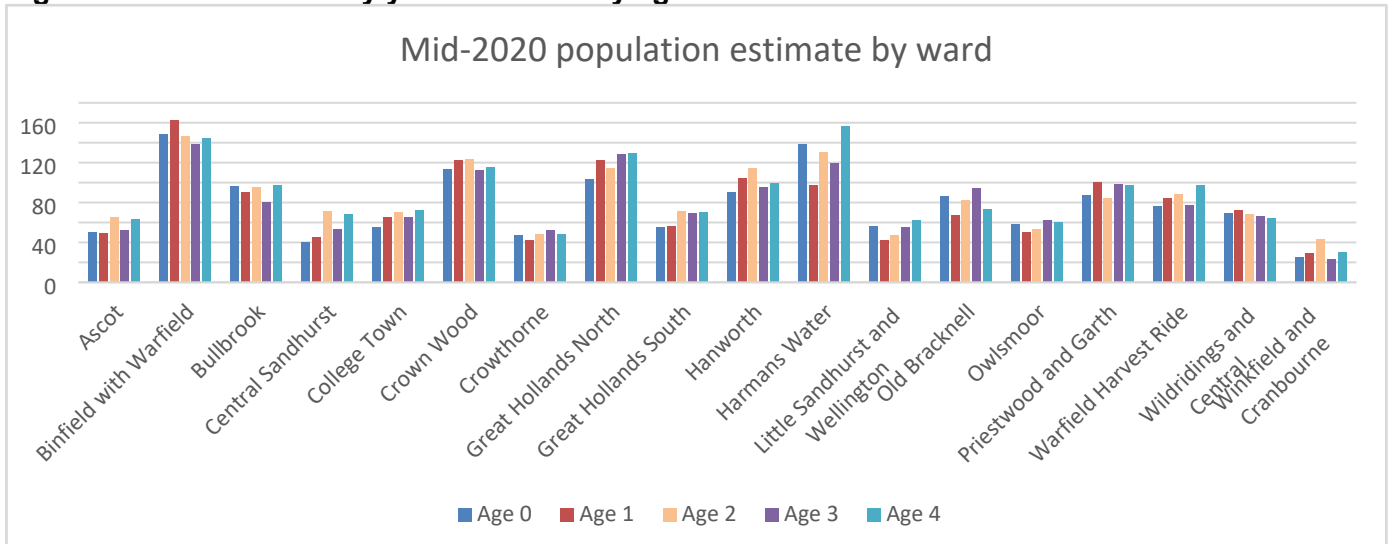
Table 2: Numbers of early years children by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	1,394

Age 1	1,399
Age 2	1,513
Age 3	1,439
Age 4*	1,546

Sources: ONS - Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards and 2021 LAs in England and Wales by Single Year of Age * Some four-year-olds will have started reception

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



Sources: ONS - Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards and 2021 LAs in England and Wales by Single Year of Age. * Some four-year-olds will have started reception

3.2. Population of school age children

In total there are 11,622 children aged 5-11, and 5,083 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 3: Numbers of school age children by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	1,501
Age 6	1,565
Age 7	1,637
Age 8	1,710
Age 9	1,726
Age 10	1,710
Age 11	1,773
Age 12	1,713
Age 13	1,703
Age 14	1,667

Source: ONS - Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards and 2021 LAs in England and Wales by Single Year of Age

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

Table 4: Children with an EHCP by age

Age	Number of children	Change from 2022
Birth to school age	16	+13 (433%)
Primary school (reception to year six)	453	+51 (13%)
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	606	+14 (2%)

Source: BFC Internal data as of 31 August 2023

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. All Early Years providers must have regard to the Early Years Statutory Framework (2021) and the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2015). Providers must have arrangements in place to support children with SEND.

Local authorities are required to have a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) for all 3 and 4-year-olds with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who are taking up the free entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. In Bracknell Forest we also provide SENIF for funded 2 year olds. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN. Providers can apply for SENIF funding. During 2022/2023, 75 children accessed SENIF.

For children with the most complex needs the provider or parent may request an Education, Health and Care needs assessment.

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 2023 there were 293 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

The latest data from the ONS for the financial year ending 2022 reveals that 2,762 children under 16 years old in Bracknell Forest, equivalent to 11.2% of the total population, reside in low-income families. Growing up in such households can restrict a child's access to childcare, encompassing both direct expenses and indirect costs like transportation. Children meeting financial criteria indicative of deprivation are eligible for additional funding aimed at improving their childcare access. This funding encompasses two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (for 3- and 4-year-olds not in school), and Pupil Premium (for children in school). Table 5 provides the number of children qualifying for this funding in our local authority during the summer term of 2023.

Table 5: Children eligible for additional funding through financial criteria

<i>Funding type</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
2-year-old Funding	173
Early Years Pupil Premium	239
Pupil Premium	2418

Source: BFC school census Summer 2023 and Early Years funding data summer term 2023

3.4.2. Parents' working status

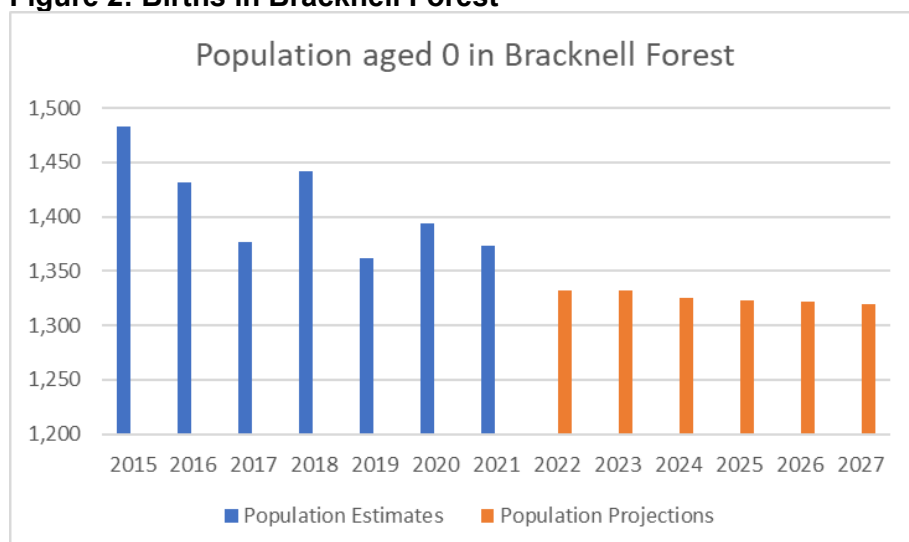
The funded early years provision includes the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds. To be eligible for this entitlement both parents in a household or one parent in a single parent household must be in employment.¹ Data from the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) indicates that 78% of Bracknell Forest residents aged 16 to 64 were economically active in the 2022/23 financial year and that potentially up to 2,328 3- and 4-year-olds could be eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement. In the summer term 2023 a total of 1,106 or approximately 37 % of 3- and 4-year-olds in Bracknell Forest claimed the 30 hours extended entitlement. After accounting for 4-year-olds in reception who are not eligible for funded early years provision, the take up of the 30 hours extended entitlements remains significantly lower than the number of potentially eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.

3.5. Changes to the population of children in our area

In line with the School Places Plan the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment uses data from the Office of National Statistics population estimates and projections. Figure 2 shows the annual estimated number of children aged 0 in Bracknell Forest in blue. The projected number of children aged 0 for future years are shown in orange.

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: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2015 to 2021 & ONS population projections 2018 to 2043

3.6. Future demand for early years free entitlement places

Using the data from the Office for National Statistics population projection 2018 to 2043 and historic data on the percentage of the children aged 3 and 4 who access the free entitlements, it is possible to forecast future demand for funded places for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Table 6: Children accessing the free entitlements

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average
Children aged 3 & 4 accessing free entitlements	2,754	2,732	2,633	2,658	2,713	
% Children aged 3 & 4 accessing free entitlements	91%	91%	88%	91%	96%	91%

Source: DfE Local Authority Interactive Tool & Early Years funding data summer 2022

Table 7: Population projection – children aged 3 and 4

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
3-year-olds	1,382	1,369	1,366	1,359	1,356	1,354
4-year-olds	1,401	1,385	1,372	1,370	1,362	1,359
Total 3- & 4-year-olds	2,783	2,754	2,738	2,729	2,718	2,713

Source: ONS population projections 2018 to 2043

In 2029 the population of 3 and 4-year-olds in Bracknell Forest is projected to be 2,713. When combined with the current average rate of uptake for the free entitlements for 3 and 4-year-old of 91%, the forecast demand for 3-and 4-year-old free entitlement places in 2028 is 2,469.

4. Supply of childcare

Data on available childcare capacity in Bracknell Forest for the summer term 2023 was collected from early years providers via an online survey, emailed questionnaire, and telephone calls.

4.1. Number of early years providers and places

In the summer term 2023 there were 197 early years childcare providers in our local authority, offering an estimated 6,425 childcare places.

Table 8: Early years providers and places by type of provision

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of places
Childminders*	134	1004
Nursery classes in schools	18	1,570
PVI providers	45	3,851

Source: Provider survey 2022, 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 and is based on the maximum number of funded hours a week a child aged 3 or 4 can access via the universal entitlement. However, places are available for children aged 0 to 1.

In practice many places will be used for childcare outside of the free entitlements and a child could access more than one place a week. For example, 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. In addition, a setting's capacity will change depending on the age of the children taking up places and how this affects staff ratios. The capacity data presented above is therefore an estimate only.

4.2. Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 47 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 32 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 124 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Table 9: School Age provision and places

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of places
Breakfast club	26	829
After-school club	25	944
Childminders*	124	1294
Holiday club	32	Insufficient data

Source: BFC data and OFSTED registration data

*Number of childminder places is an estimate based on available data; many of these places are also available for younger children.

Not all provision of childcare for school age children is registered with OFSTED and may not be listed on the Family Services Directory. Parents may also use provision which is not considered 'childcare' - for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays. Table 9 may therefore under report the total available school age provision.

OFSTED registration requirements for school age children do not include a maximum number of available places and providers will often vary their offer based on demand. These factors make collating available places for school age children challenging.

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 working², 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, based on data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions for the summer term 2023, 11% of 2-year-olds or 167 children could be entitled to funded early education for economic reasons.

² 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

5.3. Take up of funded early education

The take up of early years places is measured in the summer term of each year, when the number of places being accessed is at its highest, using data submitted by providers as part of the free entitlement funding process. Table 10 sets out the number of children taking up their funded place (for at least part of the available hours) in our local authority in summer 2023 and the proportion of the eligible population this represents. Four-year olds who have started reception class are not included in these figures.

Table 10: Take up of funded early education by age

Age	Children	% of eligible children
Age 2	173	82%
Age 3	1299	90%
Age 4	795	51%

Source: BFC Internal data, DWP eligibility data and ONS – Mid-Year population Estimates, UK, June 2021

In summer 2023 a total of 254 children resident in neighbouring authorities accessed their funded early education in Bracknell Forest. Table 11 provides a breakdown of these children.

Table 11: Children resident outside BF attending BFC Early Years (EY) provision

Local Authority	Children
Basingstoke and Deane	2
Guildford	5
Hart	54
Hounslow	1
Reading	1
Runnymede	5
Rushmoor	11
Slough	1
Surrey Heath	30
Waverley	2
Windsor & Maidenhead	58
Wokingham	97
Total	267

Source: BFC Free entitlement funding data summer 2023

A total of 332 children resident in Bracknell Forest claimed free entitlement funding in a neighbouring authority in the summer 2023, with the breakdown by Local Authority provided in Table 13 and the distribution of the children across the borough by post code shown in Figure 4.

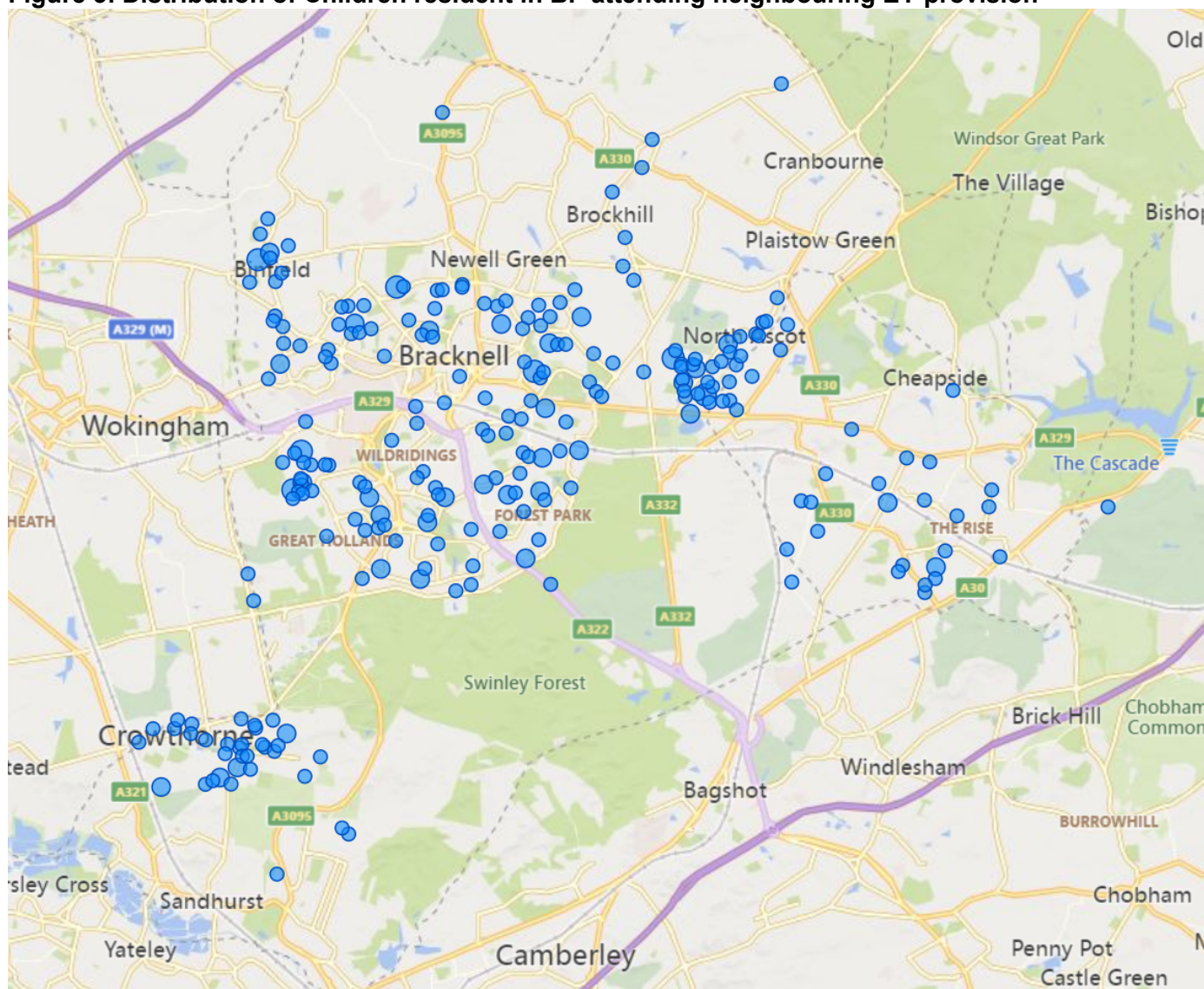
Table12: Children resident in BF attending neighbouring EY provision

Local Authority	Children
Hampshire	9
Surrey	58
Windsor & Maidenhead	124

Wokingham	141
-----------	-----

Source: Funding data, summer term 2023, Hampshire County Council, Achieving for Children (RBWM), Wokingham Borough Council, Surrey County Council

Figure 3: Distribution of Children resident in BF attending neighbouring EY provision



Source: Funding data, summer term 2023, Hampshire County Council, Achieving for Children (RBWM), Wokingham Borough Council, Surrey County Council

5.4. 30 hours extended entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to the 30 hours extended entitlement apply for this 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 Council's funding software prior to confirming that the child can take up 30 hours extended entitlement places. If they are ineligible, the child will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare. Table 13 compares the number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing the 30-hour entitlement compared to the total accessing the free entitlements for the last 5 years.

Table 13: 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 2019	2202	978	41.4%
Summer 2020	2211	1055	44.6%
Summer 2021	2074	1027	49.5%
Summer 2022	2149	1082	50.3%
Summer 2023	2094	1105	52.7%

Source: BFC Free entitlement funding data

5.5. Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid 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 in the summer term 2023 and the numbers offering each type of funded place.

Table 14: Providers offering funded early years places

<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	87	84	87	87
Nursery classes in schools	17	0	17	17
PVI providers	45	43	45	45

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, provided on the Bracknell Forest Local Directory and advertised on providers websites.³ 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.

Table 15: 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	£4.42	n/a	£4.42
2-year-olds	£6.59	n/a	£5.82
3- and 4-year-olds	£6.87	£5.01	£5.72

Source: cost data supplied by EY providers – summer term 2023

³ Details of how we collect this data is provided in section 10: Methodology

6.2. Prices of school age childcare

The average costs per hour for before and after school clubs and holiday childcare have been calculated using data available on provider websites. Insufficient data was available for the cost of school age childcare provided by childminders.

Table16: Average childcare prices – school age

<i>Setting and price unit</i>	<i>Price</i>
Breakfast clubs	£4.98
After-school clubs	£4.75
School age childminder per hour	No data
Holiday club per hour	£3.92

Source: cost data as per provider websites – summer term 2022

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.⁴ 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 year's grade.

As detailed in table 17 below, as of the 30 June 2023, 149 of 152 early years registered providers in Bracknell Forest, equivalent to 98%, had achieved a good or outstanding OFSTED rating in their last inspection. Some providers do not have a grade as they are new and awaiting their first full inspection, not Early Years active or a childminder who is part of an agency, these providers are not included in the calculation above. Nationally as of 30 June 2023, the proportion of providers judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection was 96%.⁵

Table 17: 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>	<i>Providers with no grade</i>
Childminders	129	112	16

⁴ For more information see [Ofsted inspections of early years and childcare providers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-inspections-of-early-years-and-childcare-providers)

⁵ For more information see [Childcare providers and inspections: management information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/childcare-providers-and-inspections-management-information)

Nursery classes in maintained schools *	13	13	0
Nursery classes in academies	5	5	0
PVI providers	42	40	2

Source: OFSTED

* early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

8. Parent Survey

A survey was undertaken in July 2023 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 105 responses were received from parents, representing a total of 158 children aged 0 to 16. A summary of relevant points and parents' comments are provided below. Specific comments from parents have been withheld.

Current childcare

Parents and carers were asked what childcare they currently used for their children. Where the response was 'Other' respondents were asked to provide additional details. Multiple responses were possible, and percentages indicate the frequency of that response.

Table 18: Childcare used – children below school age

Type of childcare	Responses	Percentage
Nursery class in school	16	15%
Nursery/Pre-school	58	55%
Childminder	30	29%
Other	2	1.9%

Table 19: Childcare used - school age children

Type of childcare	Responses	Percentage
Breakfast Club	23	22%
After School Club/Activities	29	28%
Childminder	8	8%
None	21	20%
Other	9	9%

Location

When asked if childcare was available in their preferred location 22 (21%) said 'No'. These respondents were asked to indicate where their preferred location was. The areas receiving the highest number of responses were Birch Hill and Easthampstead.

Holiday provision

A total of 69 respondents (65.7% of all respondents) indicated they needed childcare during school holidays, with 14 indicating they were unable to find the holiday care they required. Difficulties faced in accessing holiday care included insufficient spaces, the cost of provision and no suitable provision for children with SEN.

Difficulties finding childcare

Respondents who were able to access the childcare they required were asked how difficult it had been to find childcare that suited their needs. Of respondents looking for early years provision 10 indicated finding provision had been difficult or very difficult. None of the respondents who were able to find provision for school age children indicated they had experienced difficulty in finding provision.

9. Methodology

- Child Population – ONS - Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2020
- Children with an EHC plan: based on data held by Bracknell Forest Council
- Supply of childcare: based on data supplied by providers in the summer term 2023 via the Provider Self Update Portal, data provided by OFSTED and supplemented by local intelligence
- 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 2023
- Price of childcare: cost data per age group submitted by providers via the Provider Self Update Portal, the Family Services Directory, provider surveys 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, July 2023. Survey advertised via the Council website, Family Information Service website, social media and via childcare providers