

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment March 2019

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1. Introduction

Some key data is available which must be considered in understanding the demand for childcare in the area.

Major employment sectors

The Bath and North East Somerset economy has a predominance of public-sector related, retail, leisure and tourism employment. Public-sector related activities account for 37.8% of total employment. <http://www.swo.org.uk/local-profiles/banes/> (local profile 2012)

The following major public sector employers have onsite nurseries and have on occasion also provided other childcare such as summer schemes for older children:

- both universities
- the Royal United Hospital

2. Supply of childcare - current providers as at March 2019

Bath and North East Somerset Council has a range of childcare provision which is well distributed across the local authority area. We continue to offer training courses and support to individuals who are interested in becoming childminders.

Breakfast Club	46
Childminder**	134
Day Nursery	65
Home Childcarer	38
Independent Nursery School	5
Non Registered Holiday Scheme	8
Playgroup or Pre-School	20
Registered After School Care	51
Registered Holiday Scheme	28
School Nursery Class***	5
Specialist Service Provider	17
Total Providers	417

** Not all registered Childminders have children on roll. Of those who currently have children, the number of children cared for are well below their registered capacity.

*** Schools with early years provision which have converted to academy status will appear in the Day Nursery category

3. Birth rate and resident data

3.1 Birth rate data by Academic Year

Children's Centre Area	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Chew Valley	134	113	123	134	126	113	131	126	126	117	151
Keynsham	162	163	166	207	175	190	185	179	220	181	231
Midsomer Norton	127	138	123	140	160	129	121	153	152	127	149
Moorlands	179	158	163	163	171	185	185	172	177	153	141
Parkside	293	259	266	289	287	277	236	227	220	207	205
Paulton	104	118	133	120	127	137	120	150	140	153	128
Peasedown St John	120	107	113	113	117	109	114	90	104	87	99
Radstock	137	148	140	147	130	161	167	133	161	124	145
St Martins	203	201	194	202	196	192	201	198	181	186	196
Twerton	119	156	115	149	170	148	140	130	151	167	130
Weston	192	141	162	166	170	156	147	163	155	136	139
Total	1831	1709	1699	1832	1831	1797	1747	1721	1787	1608	1714

Bath and North East Somerset Council has always attracted more children from outside the Council area to attend provision, particularly in the 0 – 5 age range, rather than attend provision in their resident Council area. This is as a result of family working patterns and locations of providers. The resident and new birth data is now produced from records on a new IT system resulting in a slight change in the method of data capture and consequently some small revisions in the numbers provided at any one reporting time.

3.2 Resident Population by Academic Year

Children's Centre Area	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Chew Valley	203	184	191	189	184	178	166	176	15	147	158
Keynsham	244	249	242	283	249	255	253	251	271	243	233
Midsomer Norton	133	178	150	178	153	168	164	152	160	140	150
Moorlands	185	179	188	158	181	179	172	177	156	156	143
Parkside	261	259	285	288	236	262	202	203	199	185	199
Paulton	155	157	155	167	151	162	146	147	160	160	131
Peasedown St John	135	130	143	124	130	131	127	116	124	104	102
Radstock	143	143	166	152	160	155	145	160	161	136	144
St Martins	247	259	252	256	245	214	211	207	194	195	193
Twerton	114	130	107	106	163	124	134	135	154	134	128
Weston	213	214	225	225	205	203	171	182	166	134	146
Total	2033	2082	2104	2126	2057	2031	1981	1906	1760	1734	1727

4. Childcare Places

The number of places is calculated in ratio to the estimated number of children and then subdivided by Children's Centre area to produce an analysis by smaller geographical area. When required this information can be broken down further as far as individual super output areas, a size measurement area produced by criteria from the Office of National Statistics.

4.1 Without Home Childcarers

Children's Centre Area	March 2019			September 2018	
	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	710	1934	0.37	686	0.35
Keynsham	903	2773	0.33	903	0.33
Midsomer Norton	738	1726	0.43	738	0.43
Moorlands	567	1874	0.30	567	0.30
Parkside	978	2579	0.38	994	0.39
Paulton	349	1692	0.21	368	0.22
Peasedown	384	1368	0.28	390	0.29
Radstock	258	1665	0.15	258	0.15
St Martins	737	2473	0.30	713	0.29
Twerton	261	1429	0.18	261	0.18
Weston	830	2084	0.40	836	0.40
Total	6715	21597	0.31	6714	0.31

4.2 With Home Childcarers

Children's Centre Area	March 2019			September 2018	
	Childcare Places	Number of children 0-11	Ratio of childcare places to children	Childcare Places -	Ratio of childcare places to children
Chew Valley	727	1934	0.38	703	0.36
Keynsham	908	2773	0.33	908	0.33
Midsomer Norton	743	1726	0.43	743	0.43
Moorlands	589	1874	0.31	589	0.31
Parkside	991	2579	0.38	1009	0.39
Paulton	354	1692	0.21	373	0.22
Peasedown	392	1368	0.29	398	0.29
Radstock	258	1665	0.15	258	0.15
St Martins	757	2473	0.31	733	0.30
Twerton	261	1429	0.18	261	0.18
Weston	837	2084	0.40	846	0.41
Total	6817	21597	0.32	6821	0.32

Twerton and Radstock Children's Centre areas still have the lowest levels of childcare provision. The Council continues to monitor these levels alongside demand for new provision in Bath and North East Somerset Council resulting from new housing.

5. Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year old children

5.1 3 and 4 year old provision

Bath and North East Somerset Council continues to have a sufficient level of places for the whole area but this does vary by Children's Centre area with 6 out of 11 areas having an excess of supply. Areas of undersupply continue to be monitored in order to close the gap between supply and demand.

	March 2019			September 2018		
Childrens Centre	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places (15 hrs)	Ratio	Estimate EYE Eligible Children	EYE Places	Ratio
Chew Valley	269	448	1.67	261	448	1.72
Keynsham	420	521	1.24	411	521	1.27
Midsomer Norton	267	314	1.18	240	314	1.31
Moorlands	266	233	0.88	275	233	0.85
Parkside	311	445	1.43	306	461	1.50
Paulton	241	207	0.86	230	209	0.91
Peasedown	202	188	0.93	201	189	0.94
Radstock	258	162	0.63	241	162	0.64
St Martins	353	410	1.16	333	410	1.23
Twerton	214	187	0.87	216	187	0.87
Weston	294	388	1.32	278	391	1.41
Total	3095	3502	1.13	2992	3524	1.18

The ratio of places to children has decreased slightly as the number of resident children has increased in some areas.

5.2 2 year old provision

The take up of 2 year funding has increased over the past 12 months. 405 eligible children took up a place in the Autumn 2018 term which is up from 328 in the Autumn 2017 term.

5.3 Early Years Pupil Premium

Since April 2015 the Early Years Pupil Premium worth up to £300 became available for an estimated 325 children accessing their 3 and 4 year old entitlement. The main eligibility criteria are the family income in the same way that the school Pupil Premium has been allocated for children from reception age upwards. This funding is targeted to help narrow the gap in attainment between the children in low income families whose learning outcomes from pre-school through into school and beyond are typically lower than the rest of their peer cohort.

Take up of the Early Years Pupil Premium has continued to be high since the start of 2016 with a total of 350 eligible children receiving the funding in the Spring 2019 term.

6. 30 hours Early Years Entitlement offer for working families

From 1st September 2017, approximately 1308 families were deemed as eligible by the Department for Education for the extended early year's entitlement in Bath and North East Somerset.

In the Spring 2019 term, 1450 children accessed additional hours. Bath and North East Somerset is currently among the highest performing Local Authorities in the South West for the take up of 30 hour funding in relation to the number of codes issued and then verified by a provider, and one of the highest performing Local Authorities nationally. Parents and families can find more information on the new childcare offers on the Childcare Choices website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

7. Cost and availability of childcare

The Coram Family and Childcare Trust produced a report based on their Childcare Survey 2019.

The 30 hours extended entitlement in England

- ▶ Sixty-two per cent of English local authorities have enough childcare for children using the 30 hours extended entitlement, which is higher than in 2018.
- ▶ The majority of local authorities have not seen any impact on the availability of early years childcare, including the entitlements, as a result of the introduction of 30 hours. Generally, local authorities were more likely to be positive than negative about future impacts.

This latter statement is reflected in Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Table 3 - Price of 25 and 50 hours a week childcare for three and four year olds

	25 hours a week, including universal entitlement (paying for 10 hours)	50 hours a week, including extended entitlement in England (paying for 20 hours) and universal entitlement in Scotland (paying for 35 hours)
England	£49.23	£95.84
Scotland	£44.39	£148.20
East Midlands	£42.18	£80.10
East of England	£47.53	£95.38
London, inner	£66.10	£124.06
London, outer	£58.76	£112.90
North East	£48.59	£100.53
North West	£41.85	£79.15
South East	£50.93	£99.33
South West	£47.71	£95.43
West Midlands	£49.86	£98.79
Yorkshire and Humberside	£42.92	£84.69

Parents are paying considerably less for childcare for three and four year olds than for younger children. There are two key drivers for this: families are receiving funded hours meaning that parents are paying for fewer hours and lower staff to child ratios meaning that childcare costs less to provide.

Families who are accessing the extended entitlement of up to 30 hours each week are paying considerably less for their childcare. This is demonstrated in Bath and North East Somerset with one of the highest take up rates of the extended entitlement in the South West region.

Table 15 - Proportion of providers offering the 30 hours extended entitlement, England

	2018	2019
Maintained nurseries	81%	97%
School nursery classes	57%	62%
PVI nurseries	82%	86%
Childminders	53%	60%

The above table demonstrates the increase in providers offering the extended entitlement. In Bath and North East Somerset there are very few providers who are unable to offer the extended entitlement either themselves or in partnership with other providers.

The link between providers and childminders to offer wrap around care is particularly successful.

The full report can be accessed here: <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2019>