

Hull City Council

Childcare Sufficiency

Assessment

2025

Early Years Standards & Improvement Team

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1.1 Purpose of the report

This annual report has been produced to support the local authority in its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents/carers or parents/carers who are studying or training for employment. The report will provide a robust market research tool for existing and potential new childcare providers looking to enter the market to meet the needs of working families to support the local economy.

1.2 Childcare sufficiency duty

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment with children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 years for SEND children).

A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment measures the nature and extent of the demand and supply of childcare. For this purpose, it includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, school nurseries, wraparound provision as well as the number of places providing the early education and childcare entitlements for eligible children within the local authority. It identifies any gaps in the local childcare market and underpins the creation of a citywide action plan. To ensure there are sufficient early education and childcare places, and that children have access to high quality early years provision, improving outcomes for children.

1.3 Methodology

Childcare sufficiency can be considerably difficult to predict or quantify. Participation in childcare is not a statutory requirement and uptake is based purely on parental choice. Parents/carers who choose to use a registered childcare provider can access any provider across the city and are not restricted by geographical area or local authority boundaries. This flexibility is vital for working parents/carers to access childcare that fits around their working commitments either on their daily commute or route to work rather than close to their home address.

The range of hours families use varies significantly, they decide on the number of hours based on individual circumstances especially if they fall outside the criteria for the government funded 15 hours and 30 hours early education and childcare entitlement (known as 'funded hours'). Some parents/carers do not use the full amount of funded early education and childcare hours available to them and some choose to stretch their entitlement taking less hours each week but over 52 weeks rather than 38 weeks each year. These variations make forecasting the sufficient childcare places needed extremely difficult and can vary across all wards in the city.

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) inspects and regulates services for the care of children and young people. Ofsted registration allows childcare providers to respond to demand by varying their age range to utilise the space and staffing they have available. This flexibility further complicates calculating the supply of childcare in

the city as the capacity is constantly shifting by responding to the demand of the local childcare market.

To simplify these complex issues this report will make use of current statistics and historical data to forecast the demand and supply of childcare.

The uptake of the early education and childcare funded entitlements is collected as primary data taken directly from the headcounts submitted to the local authority by the childcare providers and schools. The childcare providers and schools are also surveyed each term to ascertain their capacity, considering staffing availability, number of occupied places, and number of unoccupied places.

2 The childcare market

2.1 Supply of childcare in Hull

The Family Information Service (FIS) sits within Hull City Council's Early Years Team and holds comprehensive data for all Ofsted registered childcare which is updated daily.

This data is used to undertake an in-depth analysis of the current 'supply' of childcare in the city including;

- Total number and breakdown of childcare places.
- Quality of childcare across the city by latest Ofsted inspection outcome.
- Insight into the sustainability of childcare.
- Current cost of childcare by area and provider type.

Table 1: Number of childcare providers by provider type

Type of Provision	No. of Providers
Childminders (including CM Agency)	45
Day Nurseries	50
Out of School Clubs	4
Pre-School Playgroups	8
Holiday Schemes	13
Maintained Nursery Schools	0
Academy & Maintained Nursery	
Classes (Inc 2 Independent school)	64
Total	184

Source: FIS Primary Data – September 2025

Table 1 shows the current number of providers by provider type. Since 2023/2024 there has been a net gain of 1 childminder. There has been the closure of 2 pre-schools and 1 day nursery. This was a loss of 71 FTE places in Summer 2025. Since September 2024 252 FTE places have been created through the School Based Nursery grant and the Capital Expansion fund. Two primary schools have merged and an additional independent school is now offering funded places.

2.2 Quality of Childcare

All childcare providers must register with and are inspected by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills (Ofsted). All childcare providers are graded against the same criteria which result in an overall grade on the quality of their provision. The four possible grades are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. Termly statistical releases from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Ofsted compare inspection outcomes against statistical neighbours, regional authorities, and national averages.

From November 2025, Ofsted are introducing a new 5-point grading scale across a wider range of areas. Ofsted will increase the frequency of inspections from every 6 years to every 4. The 5-point grading scale results will be included within next year's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Typically, childminders who do not have any children on-site during the inspection receive a 'Met' or 'Unmet' judgement. This shows if the childminder is meeting Ofsted requirements but does not reflect the quality of the provision. For this report, we have recorded providers with 'Met' as 'Good'. Within the childminders included in the table above we have 3 childminders who have joined a Childminder Agency (CMA). These childminders are recorded as 'Good' as the agencies have received an Ofsted grade of 'Effective'.

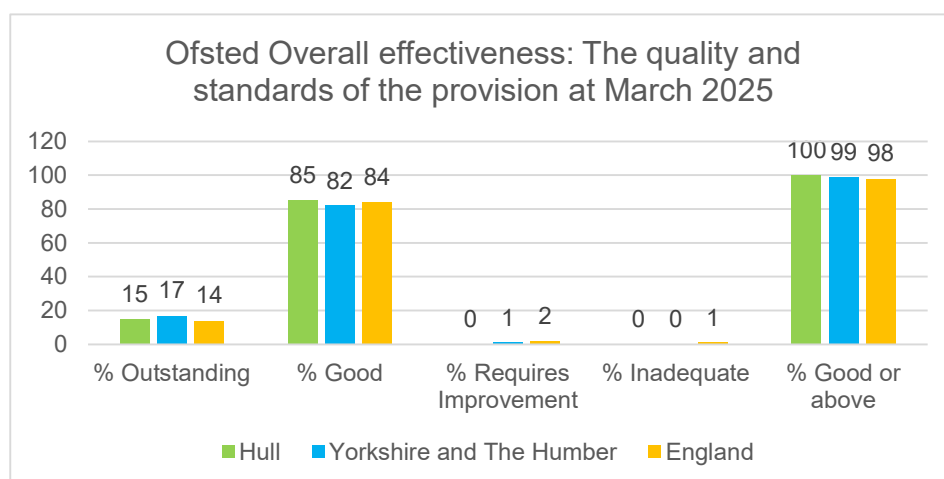
Providers awaiting their first inspection are excluded from our Ofsted profile until they receive their first Ofsted inspection. Nursery classes and school-based provision are inspected under the school Ofsted inspection.

Ofsted is responsible for the inspection of all services providing childcare and early education. The Early Years Team role is to support and challenge local providers to improve their outcomes and monitor and raise standards across the city. The quality of the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector in Hull remains high, see charts 1 to 5, exceeding national averages as follows:

- 100% of childminders in Hull are judged to be Good or Outstanding, which is 2% above the March 2025 National Average of 98%.
- 100% of nurseries and pre-school playgroups in Hull are Good or Outstanding, which is 2% above the March 2025 National Average of 98%.

The Early Years Team will continue to support and challenge local providers to ensure the quality of provision remains high.

Chart 1: Ofsted overall effectiveness of all early years provision



Source: Ofsted National Statistics March 2025

Chart 2: Ofsted outcome of all providers

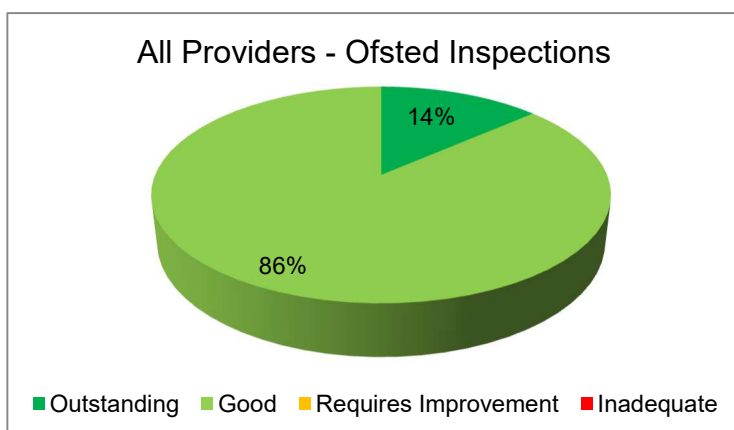


Chart 3: Ofsted outcome of full daycare

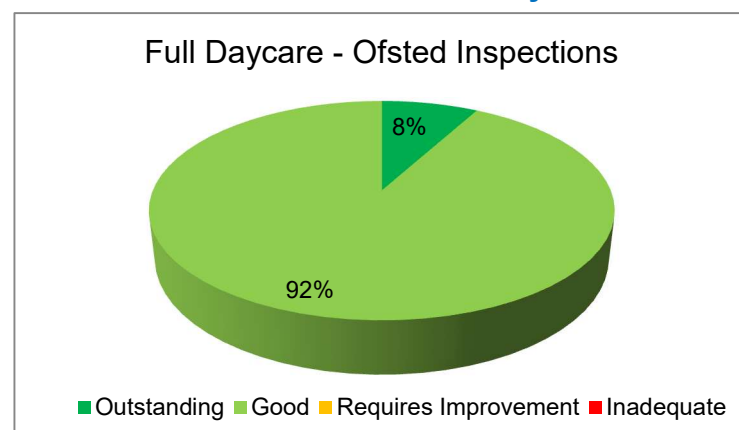


Chart 4: Ofsted outcome of pre-schools

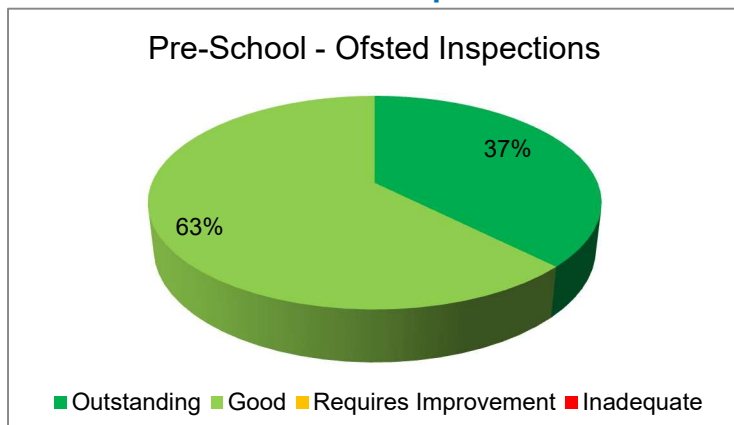
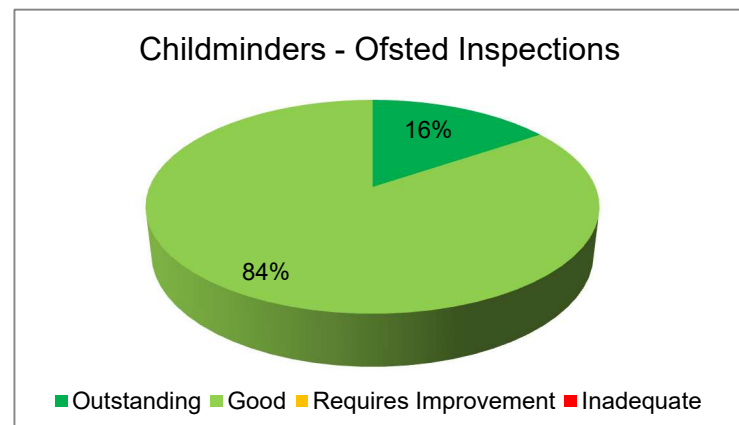


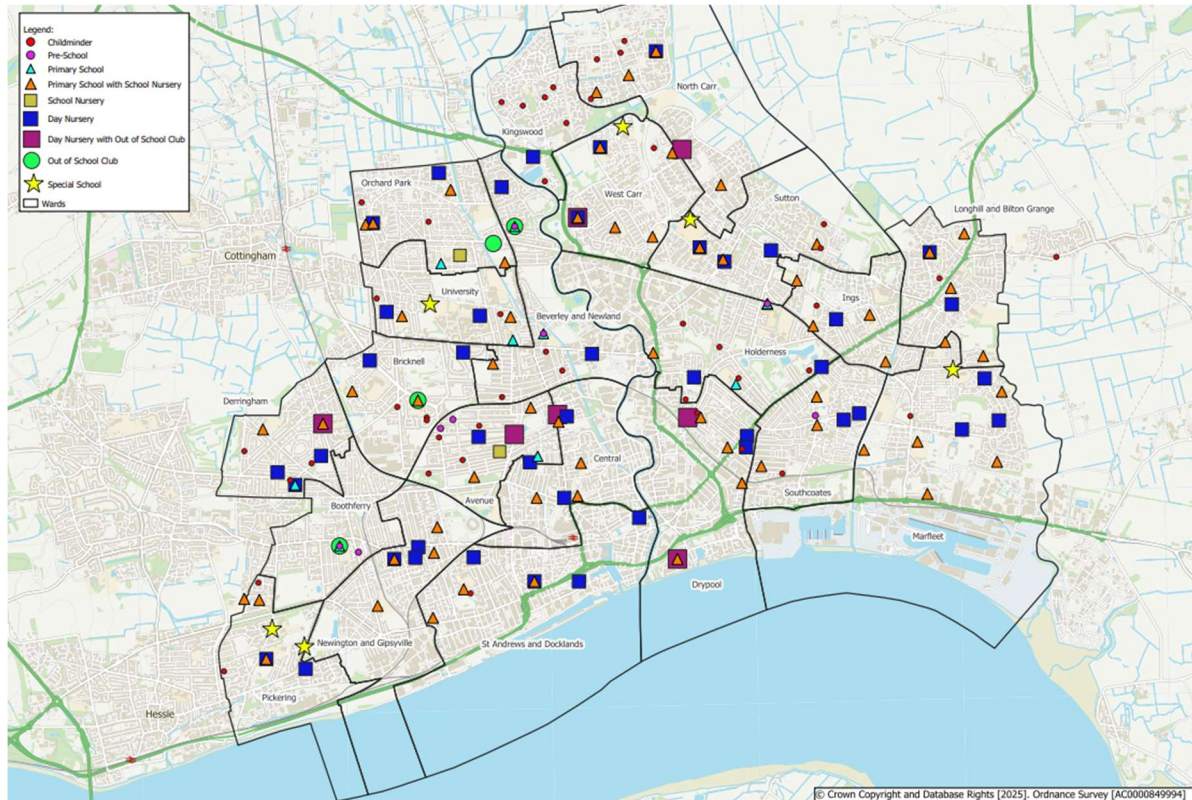
Chart 5: Ofsted outcome of childminders



Source: Ofsted Data September 2025

2.3 Accessibility of Childcare

Map 1: Childcare provision by ward



Source: FIS Distribution List, primary data, September 2025. Map created by GIS Data Team 2025

Map 1 shows an overview of the childcare provision in the city. North Carr and Marfleet show vast areas with no provision due to these being industrial/manufacturing businesses. Boothferry also has a low provision, however, places are available in the bordering wards of Newington and Gipsyville and Derringham. In these wards parents may have to rely on transport to access in alternative wards or across the border in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

2.4 Childcare places by ward

Provision for children under 5 years old

The following table provides an overview of the childcare capacity in each ward of the city and the number of children aged 0 to 4. We must note that there will be fluctuation in the birth data due to migration.

Table 2: Capacity of places available for 0-4 population

Ward	0-4 Year Old Childcare Capacity					
	0-4 Population Data by Birth	PTE Childminder Places	PTE Private, Voluntary and Independent Places	PTE Maintained Nursery Places	Total PTE Places	% of Capacity for Population
Avenue	611	32	442	104	578	95%
Beverley and Newland	656	14	207	48	269	41%
Boothferry	504	0	126	0	126	25%
Bricknell	274	12	248	130	390	142%
Central	671	0	312	136	448	67%
Derringham	550	14	392	180	586	107%
Drypool	628	12	360	117	489	78%
Holderness	473	77	270	182	529	112%
Ings	390	0	82	208	290	74%
Kingswood	680	53	158	0	211	31%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	594	6	192	252	450	76%
Marfleet	856	0	471	396	867	101%
Newington and Gipsyville	1006	0	289	231	520	52%
North Carr	922	22	278	410	710	77%
Orchard Park	871	20	120	456	596	68%
Pickering	381	18	168	182	368	97%
Southcoates	711	6	182	222	410	58%
St Andrews and Docklands	913	0	346	182	528	58%
Sutton	531	16	306	182	504	95%
University	425	16	406	104	526	124%
West Carr	501	14	154	410	578	115%
Hull	13,148	332	5,509	4,132	9,973	76%

Source: Birth data from Public Health Intelligence Team 2024. Capacity, primary data, taken directly from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull in October 2025.

The number of places for each provider type represents the available part time equivalent (PTE) places each setting could offer as of October 2025. It is important to note that most children access part time, however the hours in which a child attends varies.

Parents often stretch their funding entitlements over 52 weeks of the year using either 11 hours or 22 hours per week. The take up of part time hours also vary by setting. For example, a part time place in a day nursery or childminder would normally be 25 hours (5 hrs AM and 5 hrs PM). Where at a school or pre-school a part time place is often 15 hours per week (3 hrs AM and 3 hrs PM).

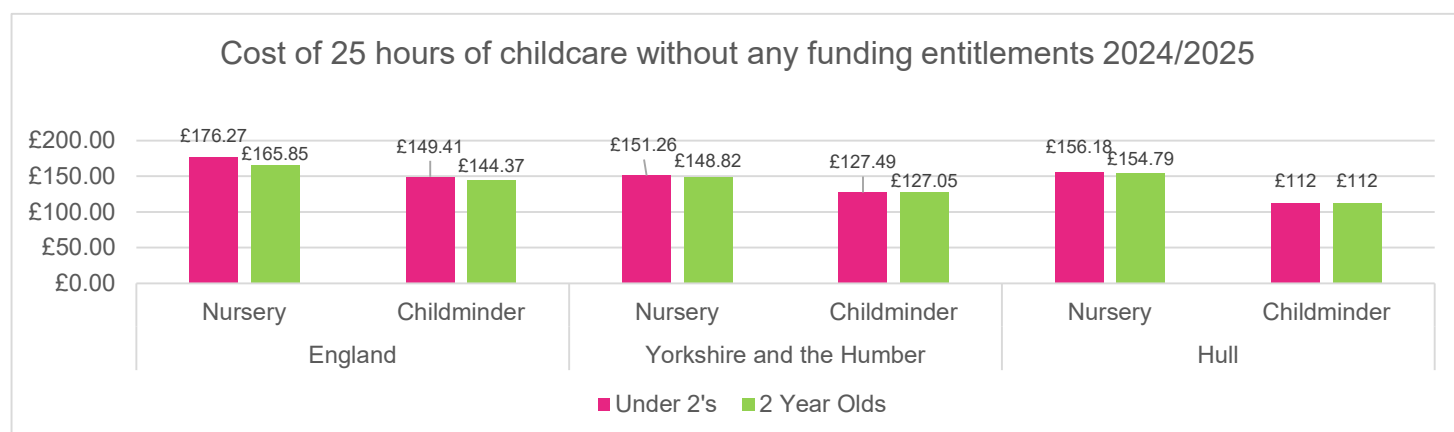
The data demonstrates that 76% of the 0-4 population could access a part time place. There are wards that have greater capacity than the population but will likely support children from other wards. As identified in Map 1, Boothferry has low provision, this is also indicated in table 2 with provision supporting 25% of the Boothferry population. We are also aware that Kingswood has low capacity, with only childminders and one nursery registered in the ward.

In both wards many parents access provision in neighbouring wards and across the boundary in the East Riding of Yorkshire. You will see later in this report that both wards currently have vacant places, although the Early Years Team will continue to assess the availability of these places.

2.5 Cost of childcare

As with all goods and services childcare costs increase with inflation and each year we see a rise in the cost of childcare. The Coram Family and Childcare conduct an annual childcare survey. Each year the report gathers information from all local authorities on the costs of childcare in their area. The Coram Family and Childcare Survey highlights how the cost of childcare varies across the country. We expect the cost of childcare will increase annually.

Chart 6: Cost of childcare across England, Yorkshire and the Humber and Hull



Source: Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2025

Reviewing the previous Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2024 the cost of 25 hours of childcare in Yorkshire and the Humber for under 2's has increased by 11% in 2025. The cost of 25 hours of childcare for 2 year olds has increased by 8% in 2025. The increase is larger than that seen between 2023 and 2024.

Around one third of families in Hull are now eligible to receive 30 hours of funded childcare per week for children the term after they turn 9 months old via the expanded Early Education and Childcare Funding for eligible working families. This is a great benefit for those families increasing their ability to cover any childcare costs. All 3 and 4 years olds not eligible for expanded 30 hours can continue to access 15 hours of

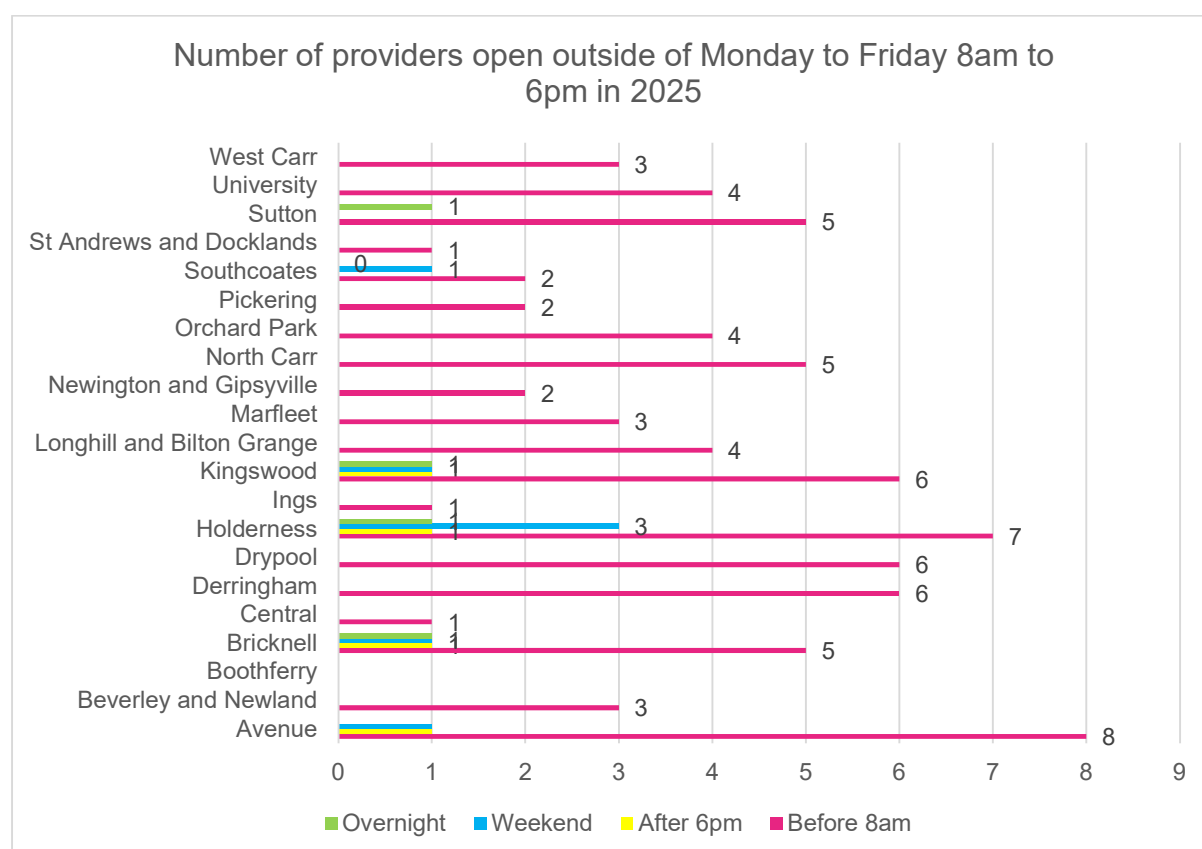
funded early education and childcare per week, as are eligible 2 year olds receiving forms of additional support. Therefore, reducing the costs of childcare.

The data shows that, on average, childminders in Yorkshire and the Humber charge 15% less than a nursery. The government funds all providers the same regardless of provider type.

2.6 Childcare flexibility outside of normal opening hours

Childcare is commonly offered around typical working hours i.e., Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm. However, some working parents require childcare outside of these times to fit around their daily lives.

Chart 7: Flexible childcare availability



Source: FIS primary data gathered directly from childminders and PVI's in September 2025

Providers are encouraged to offer places outside typical hours to support working parents/carers where there is demand. The above chart shows the number of providers in each ward offering specific places outside typical working hours.

Many childcare providers are open before 8am. There are childminders that offer childcare during weekends. There is limited childcare available beyond 6pm and overnight.

The decline in childminder registrations and increased home working has significantly reduced the number of childcare providers offering places outside atypical hours.

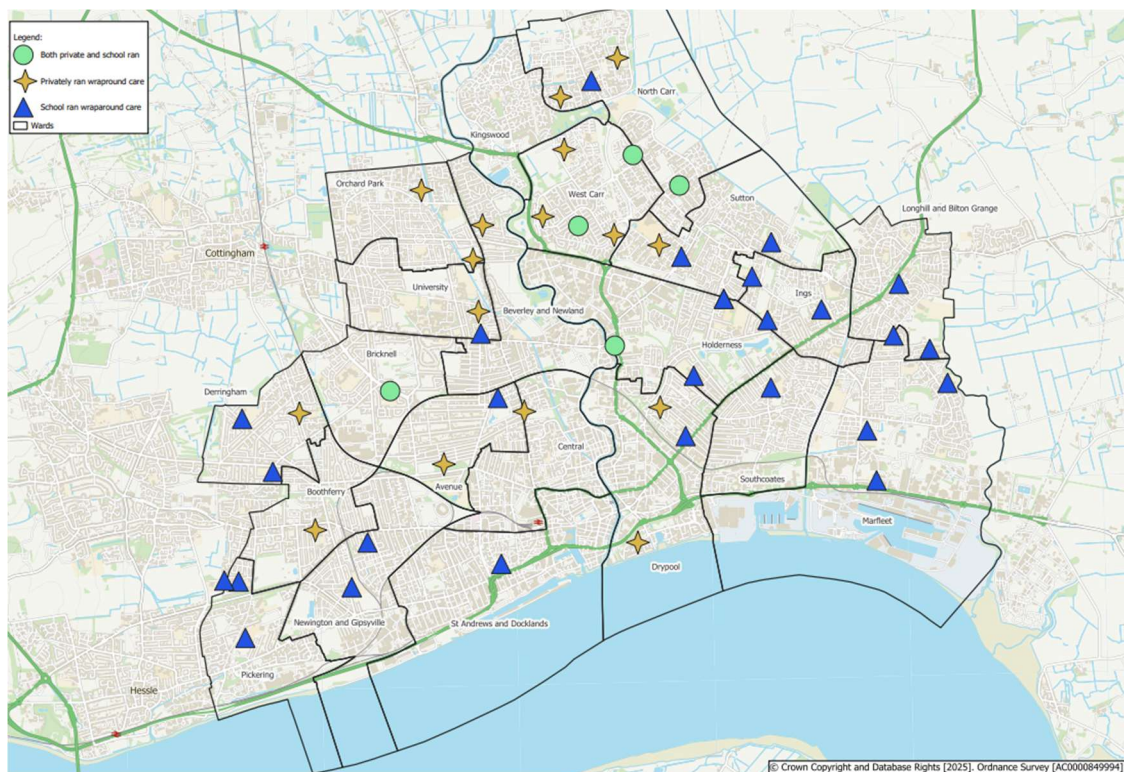
There are also childminders who work part time and therefore do not support the full week. There is still some demand for childcare outside atypical hours but feedback from providers suggests it is not at the level of demand to remain sustainable.

2.7 Wraparound childcare

Wraparound childcare is before and after school care for primary aged children during term time. The definition of wraparound childcare is provision from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday during term time. Some providers do close slightly earlier than 6pm in line with their local demand. The Department of Education introduced the National Wraparound Childcare Programme in September 2024. The programme is to financially support the expansion and creation of provision in or around every primary school, between September 2024 and March 2026 where there is no or limited provision available for working parents.

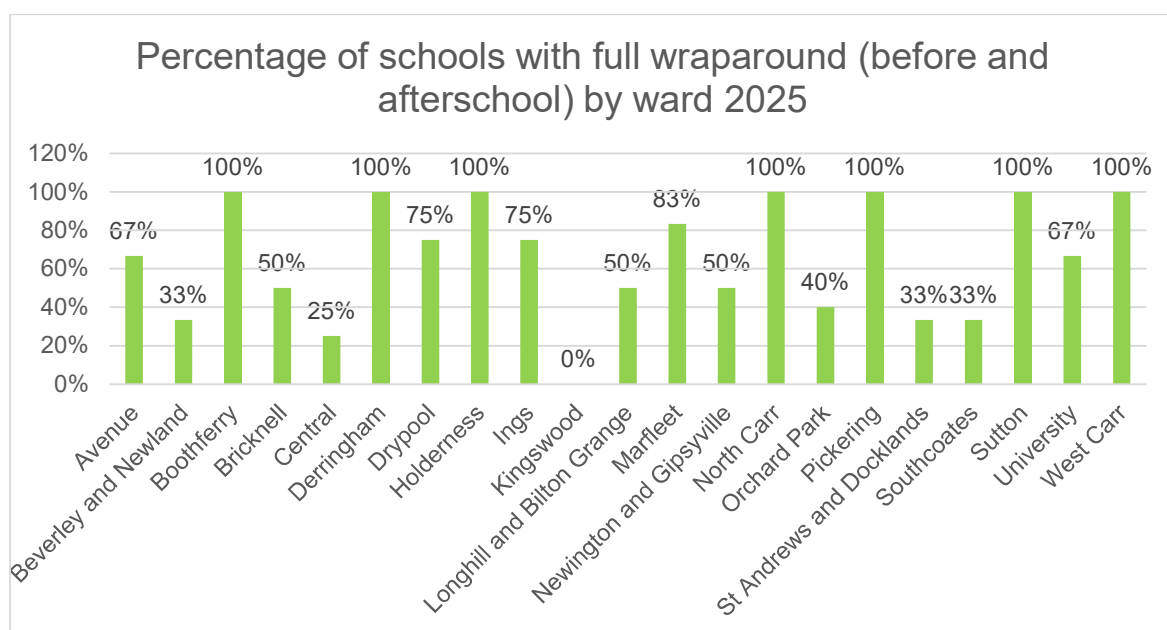
We have been working closely with local primary schools and out of school clubs to increase the availability of wraparound childcare across the city. As of October 2025, the available grant funding has supported the increase of 906 places, supporting available provision at 31 primary schools.

Map 2: Primary schools with afterschool wraparound care



Source: FIS Distribution List, primary data, September 2025. Map created by GIS Data Team 2025

Chart 8: Full wraparound provision by ward



Source: FIS database, primary data received directly from the schools, PVI's, and OOSC October 2025

100% of Hull primary schools offer breakfast provision from 8am or earlier. Across the city 48 (69%) primary schools have after school wraparound childcare available to their primary school aged children, either ran by the school or by a private provider on site or close by. As well as the 69%, there are also 27 childminders who pick up from a range of schools across the city. Over the past year, 6 childminders have ceased offering wraparound provision to school aged children. This is for a range of reasons, one of which is the result of the school starting their own provision and another being the childminders own children no longer attend the school.

As a local authority we are aware of higher areas of deprivation where demand for paid childcare is low. In these areas primary schools reported no demand for after school wraparound care. These wards are Central, Longhill and Bilton Grange, Marfleet, Newington and Gipsyville, Orchard Park, and Southcoates. We will continue to assess the demand for wraparound care and inform parents of their 'right to request' as and when they contact the Family Information Service. The Kingswood ward does not have any primary schools, the primary schools serving this ward are in North Carr with 100% of schools with wraparound care.

2.8 Holiday childcare

Holiday childcare is care predominantly for primary school and pre-school aged children during the 13 weeks of school holidays across the year. In the city there are 13 Ofsted registered childcare providers providing holiday childcare. In total they have the capacity to care for 382 full time children. 12 of the 13 providers have reported regular vacancies across the holidays. The average cost of one day in holiday provision in Hull is £37 (*Primary data directly from the providers in April 2025*).

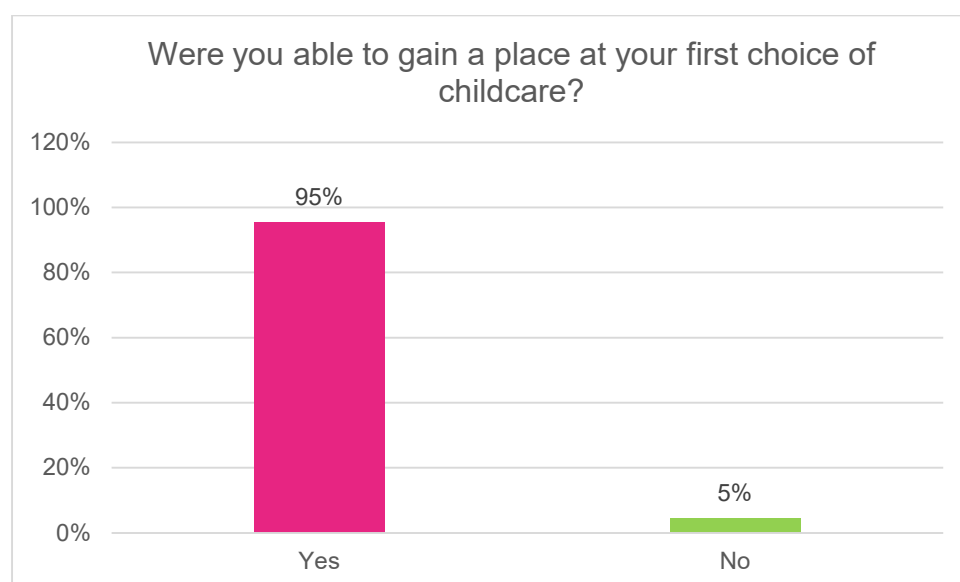
Alongside the Ofsted registered childcare providers there are also a range of targeted activities accessible across the city provided by private companies. Healthy Holidays Hull is the brand and the local delivery model for the Department for Education funded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme. As part of the programme they offer a wide range of free activities during the school holidays. In 2024/25 the programme provided 2,945 sessions to families across the city.

3. Parent feedback

In September 2025 the Early Years Team surveyed parents/carers who currently use Ofsted registered childcare, of which 591 parents responded.

Survey Results

Chart 9: Childcare choice



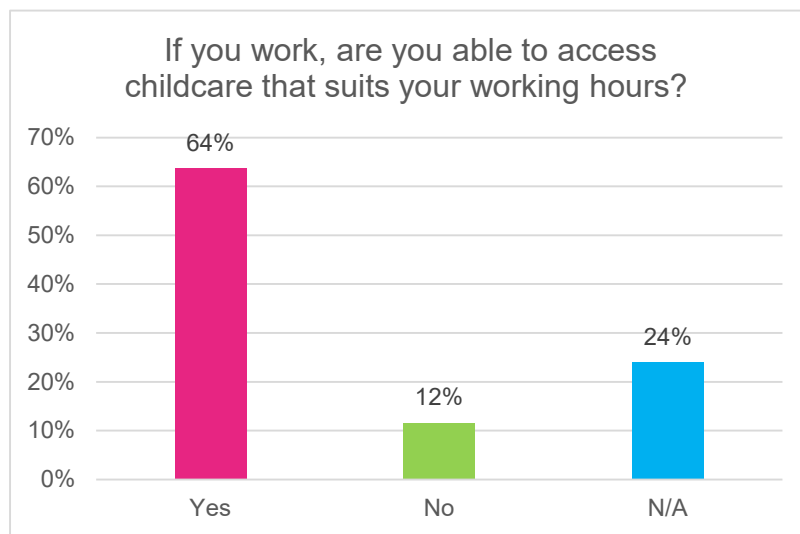
How satisfied are you with the care and education at your childcare provider?

Average rating out of 5

4.7

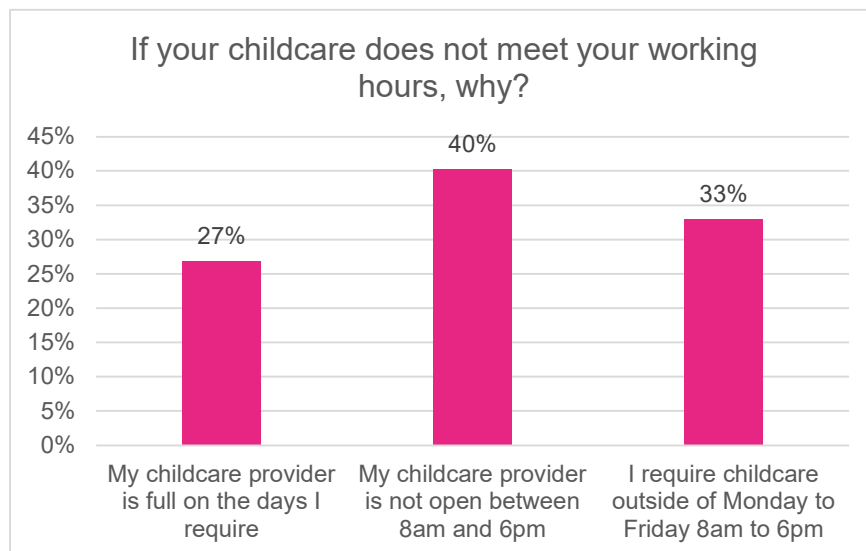


Chart 10: Childcare and working hours



88% were either able to access the childcare that suits their working hours or they do not work.

Chart 11: Childcare not meeting working hours



How informed do you feel regarding the government childcare expansion and your childcare funding entitlements for working families, including wraparound (before and afterschool care)?

Average rating out of 5

4.0



The survey outcomes were very positive. 95% were able to gain a place at their first choice of provision and parents were very satisfied with the care and education delivered by their childcare provider.

12% of parents were not able to access childcare that meets their working hours. This is 7% less than last year.

40% of those not being able to access childcare that meets their working hours have stated their childcare provider is not open between 8am and 6pm. Most day nurseries and childminders are open between 8am and 6pm. However, we know many pre-schools and 31% of primary schools are not open beyond school hours. We have been working with primary schools to increase their opening hours. Since our last report, we have seen an increase in 8% of primary school opening hours. We will continue to work with primary schools to encourage an extended day.

As we can see from the childcare flexibility data above in chart 7 there are a range of providers across the city open prior to 8am but very limited availability beyond 6pm. The demand for childcare beyond 6pm is low and therefore most provision beyond this time is not sustainable.

There was an average rating of 4 out of 5 in terms of how informed parents feel regarding the government childcare expansion and childcare funding entitlements. The rating has increased by 0.2 since last year. Over the year we have engaged with Job Centres, Family Hubs, health professionals, community centres, leisure centres, Hull City Council employees, Hull Daily Mail and Hull and East Riding Mumbler. We have promoted entitlements with parents/carers via social media, poster advertisements, our website, banners, JC Decoux boards, Family Information Service video promotion and at a range of family events across the city. We will continue our engagement.

4. Early Education and Childcare Funding

Current offers

- 9 months to 4 years expanded childcare of 30 hours per week –
Known as working parent offer
- 2 year olds 15 hours of childcare per week for Families in Receipt of Additional Support (FRAS) –
Known as 2 Year Funding
- 3 and 4 year olds universal childcare of 15 hours per week –
Known as 3 and 4 year old universal offer

Working parents who are eligible for the expanded hours must apply online via www.GOV.uk. Once confirmed as eligible they will be issued with an 11 digit eligibility code which they must present to their chosen childcare provider the term before the child starts. Unlike the continuous 15 hours universal offer and the 2 year funding

offer, the working parents codes are only valid for 3 months; therefore, parents are responsible for reconfirmation of their codes to continue to access the eligible hours.

4.1 Working parent expanded offer

Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years can access up to 30 hours per week of funded early education and childcare over 38 weeks per year (1,140 hours) or 22 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family.

On average based on the number of 3 year olds eligible for and accessing the 30 hours extended offer, we know that around 35% of the annual population would be eligible for the working parents expanded offer. Therefore, based on the population, the estimated eligible number of under 2's is 1,370 and the eligible number of 2 year olds is 1,065.

Under 2's

Table 3: Take up of the under 2's working parents offer in Hull by ward.

Ward	Annual Birth Data for 9 to 12 months	Annual Birth Data for 1 year olds	Total Birth Data for children aged 9 months to 23 months	Estimated 35% families eligible	Funded Children Autumn 2025	Percentage take up
Avenue	27	158	185	65	39	60%
Beverley and Newland	42	176	218	76	37	49%
Boothferry	34	112	146	51	38	75%
Bricknell	18	55	73	26	41	157%
Central	52	168	220	77	10	13%
Derringham	27	124	151	53	31	58%
Drypool	47	149	196	69	39	57%
Holderness	29	114	143	50	59	118%
Ings	19	86	105	37	36	97%
Kingswood	33	157	190	66	106	160%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	45	129	174	61	33	54%
Marfleet	58	199	257	90	51	57%
Newington and Gipsyville	56	239	295	103	48	46%
North Carr	58	241	299	105	75	71%
Orchard Park	42	185	227	79	20	25%
Pickering	17	84	101	35	14	40%
Southcoates	42	171	213	74	44	59%
St Andrews and Docklands	64	238	302	106	19	18%
Sutton	28	131	159	56	58	104%
University	20	91	111	39	20	51%
West Carr	29	120	149	52	38	73%
East Riding	0	0	0	0	74	N/A
Total	787	3127	3914	1370	930	68%

Hull Children Accessing ER					154	
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Source: Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

There are 930 children aged 9 months to 2 years accessing a funded place in Hull, of which 74 live in the East Riding. Therefore, there are 856 Hull children in Hull settings.

The East Riding local authority have informed us that 154 Hull 'working parent' children under the age of 2 accessed East Riding settings in Autumn 2025. Therefore, a total of **1,010 Hull children accessed a funded place**.

The anticipated number of eligible working families with under 2's is 1,370 (based on 35% of the birth rate 3,914 = 1,370).

The take up percentage of under 2's working parent offer in Autumn 2025 is **74%** (1010/1370).

The Department of Education confirmed the number of code applications for under 2's in the Autumn Term 2025 was 1,172 of which 1,080 were validated (92%).

Take up continues to remain high, there is no available data to compare the national average take up. However, the number of validated codes remains higher than national average.

2 year olds

Table 4: Take up of the 2 year old working parents offer in Hull by ward.

Ward	Annual Birth Data	Funded Children Autumn 2025 PVI's	Funded Children Autumn 2025 Maintained	Take up Percentage
Avenue	138	49	2	37%
Beverley and Newland	172	43	2	26%
Boothferry	116	32	0	28%
Bricknell	66	21	4	38%
Central	144	18	1	13%
Derringham	132	42	6	36%
Drypool	139	37	2	28%
Holderness	107	44	3	44%
Ings	104	51	0	49%
Kingswood	153	78	1	52%
Longhill and Bilton Grange	118	36	0	31%
Marfleet	207	56	1	28%
Newington and Gipsyville	240	54	0	23%
North Carr	198	64	4	34%
Orchard Park	202	25	13	19%
Pickering	90	19	1	22%
Southcoates	180	42	10	29%
St Andrews and Docklands	209	16	0	8%
Sutton	119	59	0	50%
University	96	19	2	22%
West Carr	115	31	2	29%
East Riding	0	79	2	N/A
Total	3045	915	56	32%

Source: Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

There are 971 2 year old children accessing a 'working family' funded place in Hull, of which 81 live in the East Riding. Therefore, there are 890 Hull children in Hull settings.

The East Riding local authority have informed us that 142 Hull 'working parent' children aged 2 accessed an East Riding setting in Autumn 2025. Therefore, **a total of 1,032 Hull children accessed a funded place.**

The anticipated number of eligible working families with 2 year olds is 1,065 (based on 35% of the birth rate 3,045 = 1,065).

The take up percentage of 2 year old working parent offer in Autumn 2025 is **97%** (1032/1065).

Take up has increased by 12% from the Autumn 2024. There is no available data to compare the national average take up

The Department of Education confirmed the number of code applications for 2 year olds in the Autumn Term 2025 was 1,199 of which 1,139 were validated (95%).

4.2 Families in Receipt of Additional Support (FRAS) – known as 2 Year Funding

The term after a child turns 2 who meet the criteria listed below could access up to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year (570 hours) or 11 hours stretched over 52 weeks. To be eligible for the 2 Year Funding the parent(s)/child must meet one of the below:

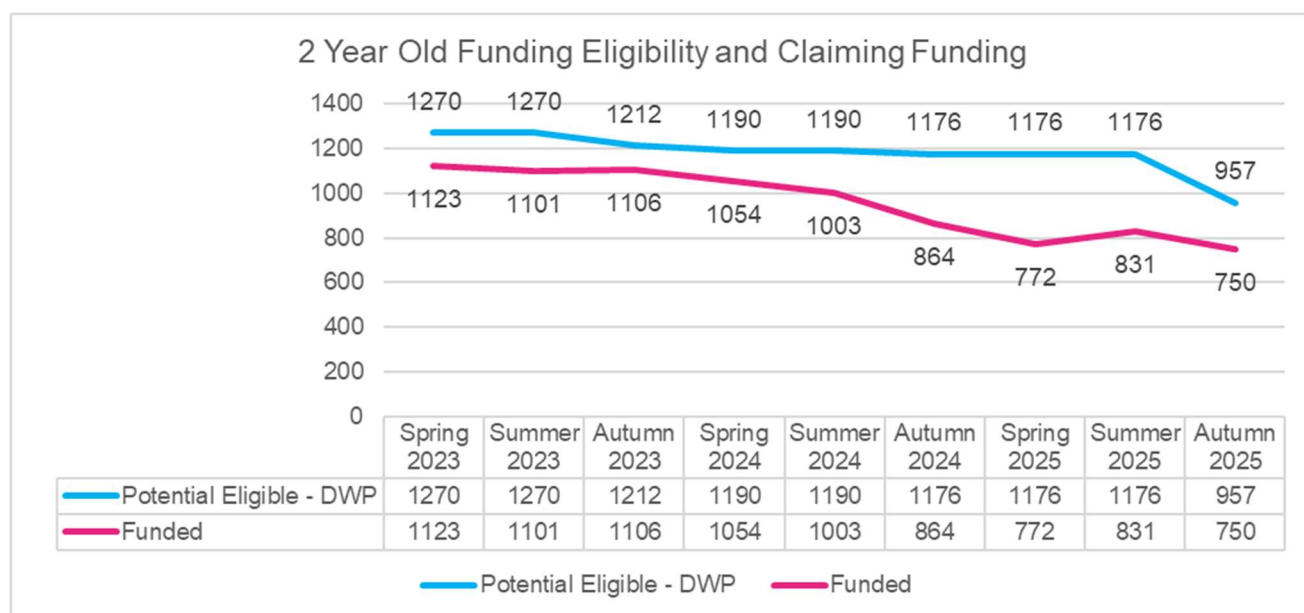
- Are in receipt of certain benefits with a threshold income limit of £15,400.
- The child is looked after by the local authority.
- The child has an Education, Health & Care plan.
- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
- The child is no longer looked after by the LA as a result of a Special Guardianship order or Child Arrangements Order or Adoption order.
- The parents have no recourse to public funds and are under the threshold of earning criteria for this category.

To apply for the 2 Year Funding parents/carers are to apply online directly to the Family Information Service via www.hull.gov.uk/children/two-year-old-funding

The tables below highlight the number of children identified on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 6 weekly return compared to the number of children accessing provision, following a confirmed eligible place.

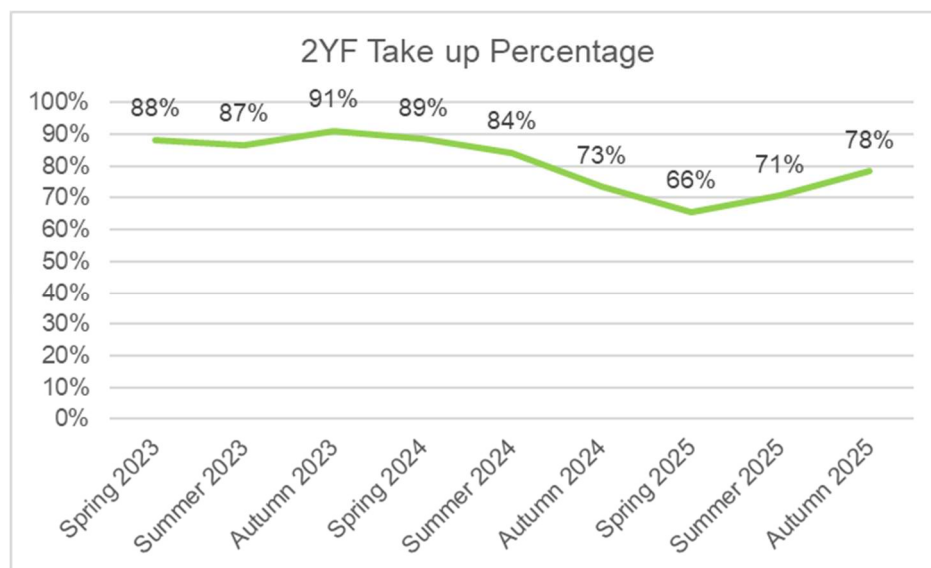
Chart 12:

Number of potential eligible 2 year olds and take up of those claiming funding



Source: Number of potential eligible children from the Autumn 2025 DWP list and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

Chart 13: Take up percentage of potential eligible children and those claiming 2 Year Funding



Source: Number of potential eligible children from the Autumn 2025 DWP list and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

The potential eligible 2 year olds on the DWP 6 weekly return has gradually reduced, which could indicate that more parents are now in work or in receipt of benefits that exceed the threshold income of £15,400.

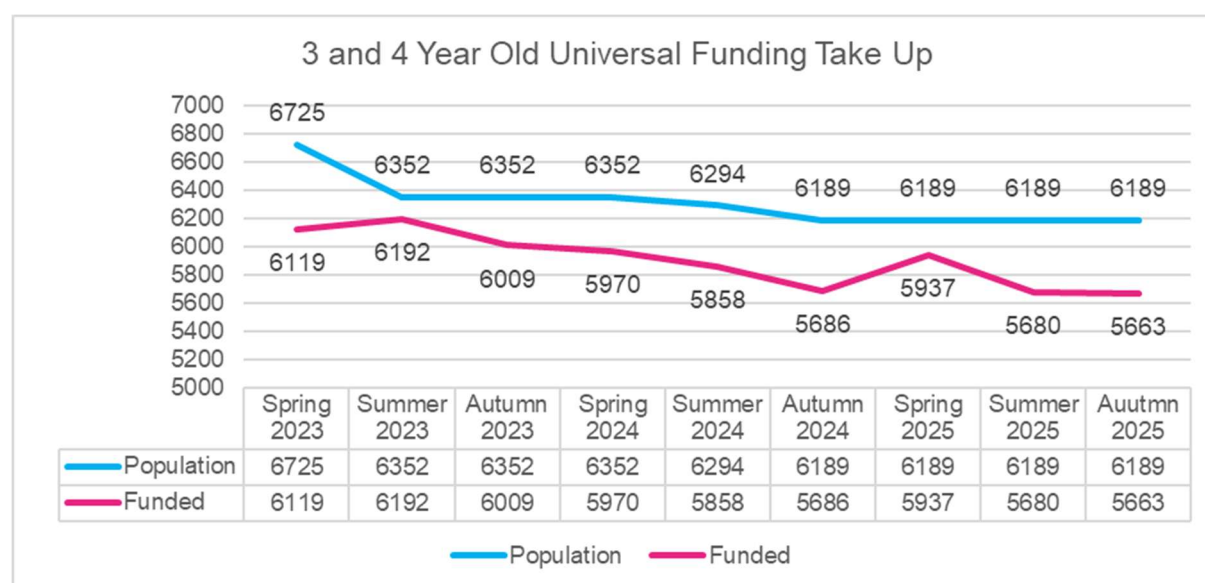
In Autumn 2025 78% of potentially eligible 2 year olds accessed the 2 Year Funding. The national average reported by the Department of Education based on the January 2025 Census was 65%.

4.3 3 and 4 year old universal offer

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to early education and childcare for 15 hours per week over 38 weeks per year (570 hours) or 11 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family.

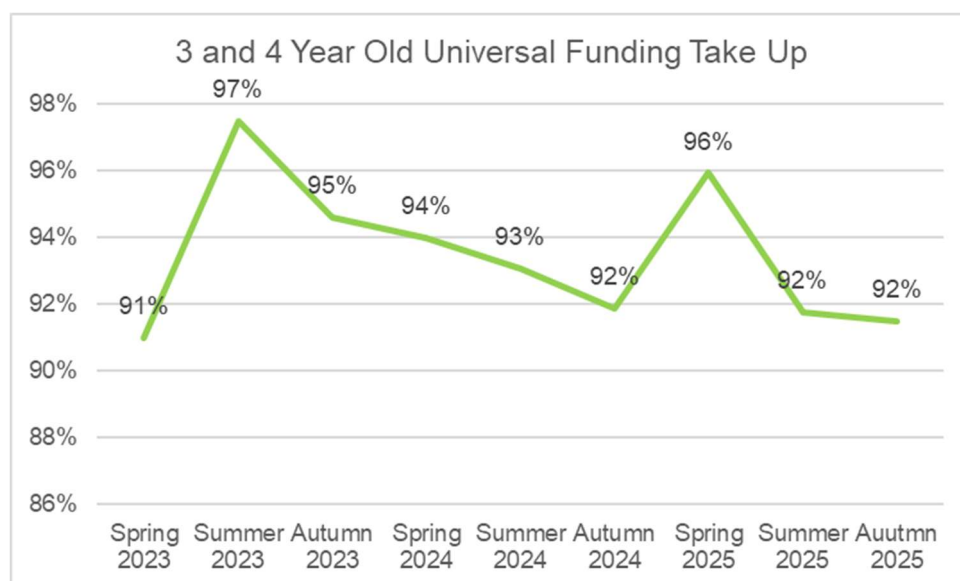
The tables below show the birth data of 3 and 4 years olds in the city of Hull in comparison to those that are taking up their funded place and the percentage of that uptake.

Chart 14: 3 and 4 year old population and take up of those claiming universal funding



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

Chart 15: Take up percentage of the population and those claiming universal funding



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

Although families can choose to use their entitlement, the local authority is committed to promoting and encouraging families to access their child's universal offer. The Early Years Team work closely with colleagues in the East Riding of Yorkshire to ensure all children in the region have access to their entitlement in whichever local authority they choose to participate.

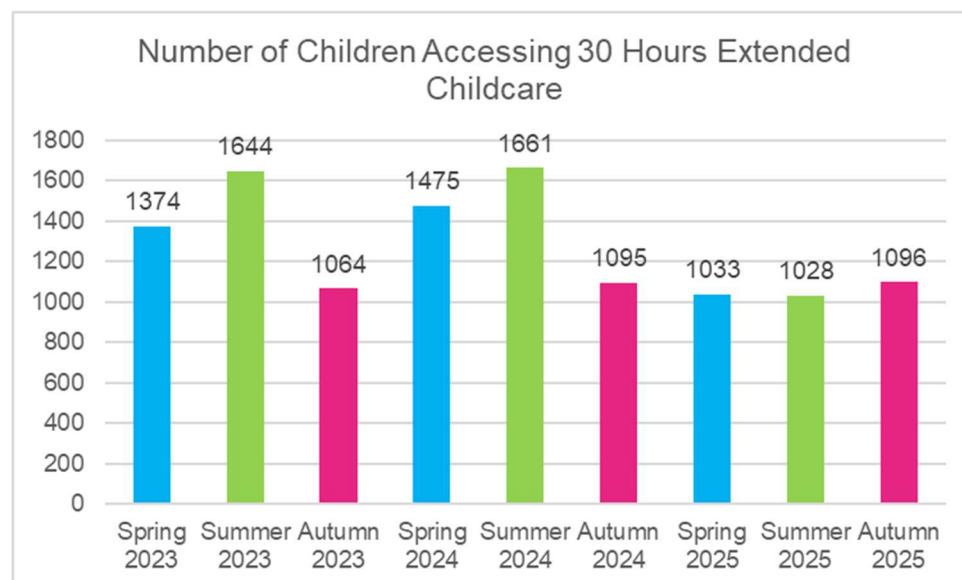
The take up percentage is this term, based on the birth data population, is 92%. The national average reported by the Department of Education based on the January 2025 Census was 93% across the year. This term is therefore 1% lower than the national average.

The Early Years team work with the Family Hubs, health visitors, childcare providers, and meet with parents and professionals at local events across the city to regularly engage with parents to provide information and support to help them access their entitlements. We also promote via our website, on social media, and via local channels such as newsletters and Hull and East Riding Mumbler.

4.4 Working parent extended offer

Eligible working parents of children aged 3 and 4 years can access an additional 15 hours over and above the universal offer over 38 weeks per year (1140 hours) or 22 hours stretched over 52 weeks of the year to meet the needs of the family.

Chart 16: Number of children accessing 30 hours extended childcare



Source: and Early Years Team headcount data, primary data received directly from the childcare providers in Autumn 2025

The take up for the extended childcare offer has gradually increased across the last 3 years. Based on the annual birth data there are 3,056 3 year olds. In Autumn 2025 1,096 3 year olds accessed the extended offer. $1,096/3,056 \times 100 = 35\%$. Therefore 35% of the 3 year old population are accessing the working parents expanded offer in Autumn 2025.

5. Demand for Childcare

Demand for childcare can change rapidly; vacancies can change daily and can be difficult to collate accurately. Children may attend full, or part time and providers will have vacancies in ad-hoc sessions across the week.

In October 2025 the Early Years Team collected data from all Ofsted registered childcare providers. The data was to ascertain the supply and take up by all children aged 0 to 4 years, including hours which parents pay for. The data has been collected consistently across all providers into part-time equivalent places (PTE). This process has enabled us to quantify how many vacancies there are across the market and the % occupancy rate by each age group across a full week.

Last year we reported that across the city childcare providers expressed difficulties recruiting and retaining high quality staff. This improved greatly this year with only 21 (17%) open vacancies within 122 schools, pre-schools and day nurseries.

The Early Years Team are working closely with recruitment agencies/organisations, early years training providers, and secondary schools to continue to support the increase in those wanting to work/return to work in the early years sector.

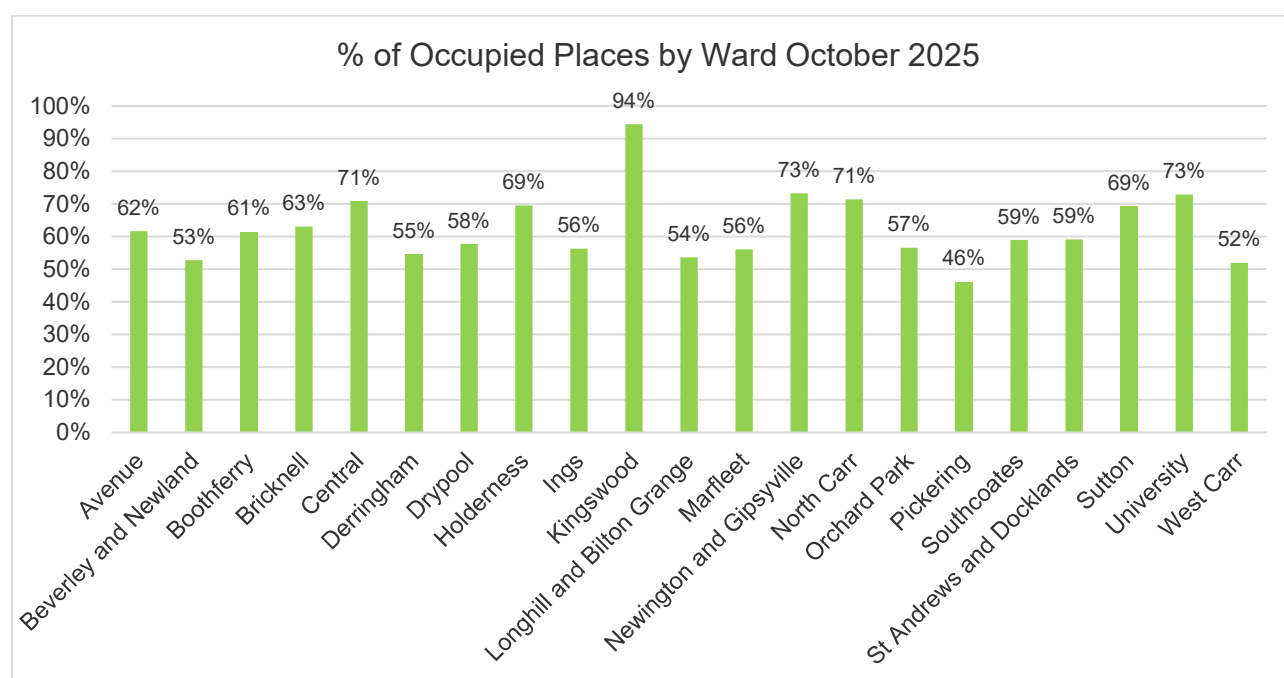
The team are also promoting the Department of Education early years careers campaign (Do Something Big) on social media and via our Family Information Service website. The Family Information Service website includes an early years' careers page with information on qualifications and links to relevant local training providers. We have also created 7 case study videos promoting successful career pathways of local practitioners in the sector. These videos are accessible on our website and have been shared with job centres, recruitment agencies, training providers, higher education providers, local authority teams, secondary schools and we will continue to promote and encourage new participants to the market.

Last year our parent survey showed that 19% of parents were not able to access childcare that suited their working hours. As in section 3, our parent survey this year evidenced that this has reduced by 7% from 19% to 12% of parents not being able to access childcare that meets their working hours. 69% of schools now have wraparound care before and afterschool extending the school day.

We will continue to work with the LA's Place Planning team to ensure that we are abreast of all new housing developments where young families may choose to occupy. And assess how this may impact on the need for additional childcare in those areas.

5.1 Supply of childcare

Chart 17: Percentage of occupied places



Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, October 2025.

Table 5: 0 to 4 year old Supply by ward

Ward	Total Provision by Ward Autumn 25 (PTE Places)			
	Total Number of Places	Total Occupied	% of Occupied Places	Total Number of Unoccupied Places
Avenue	578	356	62%	222
Beverley and Newland	269	142	53%	127
Boothferry	126	77	61%	49
Bricknell	390	246	63%	144
Central	448	318	71%	130
Derringham	586	320	55%	266
Drypool	489	282	58%	207
Holderness	529	367	69%	162
Ings	290	163	56%	127
Kingswood	211	199	94%	12
Longhill and Bilton Grange	450	241	54%	209
Marfleet	867	486	56%	381
Newington and Gipsyville	520	381	73%	139
North Carr	710	507	71%	204
Orchard Park	596	337	57%	259
Pickering	368	170	46%	198
Southcoates	410	242	59%	168
St Andrews and Docklands	528	312	59%	216
Sutton	504	349	69%	155
University	526	383	73%	143
West Carr	578	300	52%	278
Total	9973	6177	62%	3796

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, October 2025.

There are vacancies in each ward across the city, therefore this demonstrates that there is sufficient accessible childcare for families. We know from the parent survey, chart 9, that 95% of parents were able to gain a place at their first choice of childcare.

The ward with the highest percentage of occupied places is Kingswood. Kingswood has limited provision but is supported by the neighbouring ward North Carr.

The table above shows that, in total there are 38% vacant places across all in ranges in the city.

The tables below show the capacity and places occupied by age range in each ward.

Table 6: 3 and 4 year old supply by ward

Ward	3 & 4 Year Olds Autumn 25 (PTE Places)			
	Number of 3&4 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied 3&4 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied 3&4 Year Old Places
Avenue	366	214	59%	152
Beverley and Newland	160	83	52%	77
Boothferry	100	60	60%	40
Bricknell	201	110	55%	91
Central	266	182	68%	84
Derringham	334	149	45%	185
Drypool	258	141	55%	117
Holderness	332	218	65%	115
Ings	254	130	51%	124
Kingswood	82	75	92%	7
Longhill and Bilton Grange	349	152	44%	197
Marfleet	578	278	48%	300
Newington and Gipsyville	339	218	64%	121
North Carr	469	313	67%	156
Orchard Park	345	167	48%	178
Pickering	234	93	40%	141
Southcoates	278	147	53%	131
St Andrews and Docklands	342	189	55%	153
Sutton	302	183	60%	119
University	284	185	65%	100
West Carr	470	225	48%	245
Total	6343	3511	55%	2832

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, October 2025.

The city has 2,823 PTE vacant places for 3 and 4 year olds. The majority of these places are within primary schools. There were 3,004 PTE vacant places last year. We have been working closely with primary schools to increase their offer with a longer day providing wraparound for their 3 and 4 year olds. We have also worked closely with all childcare providers to consider remodelling to fill vacancies with age ranges where there is greater demand.

Table 7: 2 year old supply by ward

Ward	2 Year Olds Autumn 25 (PTE Places)			
	Number of 2 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied 2 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied 2 Year Old Places
Avenue	122	83	68%	39
Beverley and Newland	69	44	64%	25
Boothferry	26	18	67%	9
Bricknell	99	75	76%	24
Central	116	78	68%	38
Derringham	154	112	72%	42
Drypool	131	79	61%	52
Holderness	124	86	70%	38
Ings	24	22	93%	2
Kingswood	50	46	90%	5
Longhill and Bilton Grange	77	65	85%	12
Marfleet	185	136	74%	49
Newington and Gipsyville	120	104	87%	16
North Carr	160	123	77%	37
Orchard Park	234	160	68%	74
Pickering	98	45	46%	53
Southcoates	112	76	68%	36
St Andrews and Docklands	126	76	61%	50
Sutton	104	89	86%	15
University	135	112	83%	23
West Carr	98	67	68%	31
Total	2364	1697	72%	667

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, October 2025.

The table above shows the success of the roll out of the expanded early education and childcare offer across the city and ensuring that provision was available to all children requiring a place. There are 667 PTE vacancies for 2 year olds across the city with some vacancies in each ward. The wards with the highest percentage of occupied places are Ings, Kingswood, Newington and Gipsyville, Sutton, Longhill and Bilton Grange and University.

Spring 2026 Predictions

Typically, Summer is the term with the highest take up, although we will monitor this over time. Therefore, we predict our future take up based on our highest term, Summer.

The take up in Summer 2025 for working family 2 year olds was 831 FTE. In Autumn 2025 the take up of working family 2 year olds was 948 FTE. Therefore, Summer is 152 FTE places more than those attended in Autumn 2025. From this the predicted PTE increase of working family 2 year olds is 304 PTE.

The take up in Summer 2025 for 2 Year Funded 2 year olds was 821 PTE. In Autumn 2025 the take up of 2 Year Funded 2 year olds was 645 PTE. Therefore, Summer is 176 PTE places more than those attended in Autumn 2025.

From the above we therefore predict that a further 304 PTE + 176 PTE = 480 PTE are potentially required for Spring 2026.

There are 667 PTE places still available this term. $667 - 480 = 187$ **PTE vacant places in Spring 2026**. This will support any potential increase in uptake in the Summer 2026 term.

Table 8: Under 2's supply by ward

Ward	Under 2 Year Olds Autumn 25 (PTE Places)			
	Number of Under 2 Year Old Places	Number of Occupied Under 2 Year Old Places	% of Occupied Places	Unoccupied Under 2 Year Old Places
Avenue	90	59	65%	31
Beverley and Newland	40	15	37%	25
Boothferry	0	0		0
Bricknell	90	61	68%	29
Central	66	57	86%	9
Derringham	98	60	61%	38
Drypool	100	62	62%	38
Holderness	73	64	88%	9
Ings	12	11	92%	1
Kingswood	79	78	99%	0
Longhill and Bilton Grange	24	24	99%	0
Marfleet	104	72	69%	32
Newington and Gipsyville	61	59	97%	2
North Carr	82	71	86%	11
Orchard Park	18	11	61%	7
Pickering	36	31	87%	5
Southcoates	20	19	93%	1
St Andrews and Docklands	60	46	77%	14
Sutton	98	77	79%	21
University	107	86	81%	21
West Carr	10	8	81%	2
Total	1267	970	77%	297

Source: Primary data collected from all Ofsted registered childcare providers in Hull, October 2025.

The table above shows the success of the roll out of the expanded early education and childcare offer across the city, which evidenced that provision was available to all children requiring a place. There are 297 PTE vacancies for under 2 year olds across the city. The wards with the highest percentage of occupied places are Kingswood, Longhill and Bilton, Newington and Gipsyville, Southcoates, Ings, Holderness, Central, Pickering, North Carr, University and West Carr.

Spring 2026 Predictions

Typically, Summer is the term with the highest take up, although we will monitor this over time. Therefore, we predict our future take up based on our highest term, Summer.

The take up in Summer 2025 for working family under 2 year olds was 893 PTE. In Autumn 2025 the take up of working family under 2 year olds was 797 FTE. Therefore, Summer is 96 FTE places higher than Autumn 2025. If all children increased from 15 hours to 30 hours, this indicates that 192 PTE places are needed.

There are 297 PTE places still available this term. $297 - 192 = 105$ **PTE vacant places in Spring 2026**. This will support any potential increase in uptake in the Summer 2026 term.

5.2 Success of expansion rollout

We have met our duty to ensure there are sufficient places for working parents to access their expanded offer of 30 hours for eligible children from the term after they turn 9 months. There are adequate places across all age ranges with vacancies in each.

Since Autumn 2024 we have supported the increase of places as below:

Under 2's an increase of 83 PTE places, 6.5% increase.

2 year olds an increase of 260 PTE places, 11% increase.

3 and 4 year olds a decrease of 175 PTE places, 2.7% decrease.

6. Early Years Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)

All early years providers in Hull have access to specialist advice from the Early Years Access and Inclusion team. Children's needs are identified early, and co-produced plans set in place to meet those needs. SENCO's and nursery practitioners are central to the process of early identification and have adopted person-centred planning approaches by working closely with families coordinating the involvement of health and care professionals.

There is no evidence to suggest that children with SEND cannot access provision of their choice.

The Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) is available to all providers for children 0 to 4 years who have been identified as requiring additional support. Funding is awarded following a panel review and agreed at an appropriate level. In 2024/2025 there were 321 new referrals made to panel.

Table 9: Children receiving inclusion support funding

Level	Summer 2025	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022
1 (100%)	73	72	82	66
2 (80%)	385	394	304	252
3 (60%)	76	73	81	67
TOTAL	534	539	467	387

Source: Early Years SEND Team Autumn 2025

There has been a significant increase in previous years in the number of children accessing early years setting with complex and medical needs. The table shows the increase over the last 4 academic years of children identified as being eligible for the SEN Inclusion funding and outreach support, whilst attending nursery. Since 2024 the amount of SEN Inclusion Funding has remained at a consistent rate.

To view the full version of the SEND strategy and SEND Action Plan please visit Hull's Local Offer website:

<https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/early-years?categoryId=6>

7. Information for Parents: Family Information Service (FIS)

Hull City Council's Family Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and guidance on childcare and activities available to children and young people aged 0-20 including:

- Ofsted registered childcare providers.
- Voluntary registered childcare providers.
- Early education and childcare funding including, government childcare offers and Tax Free Childcare.
- Advice on choosing a childcare provider including flexibility, opening hours, and location.
- The promotion of local events, activities, groups, and clubs suitable for children and young people.
- Support for childcare providers with marketing, business sustainability, market research and childcare sufficiency.

8. Sufficiency Action Plan

We will continue to review the supply and demand of childcare places.

Action	Timescale
Mapping supply and demand for the early education and childcare entitlements.	Termly until Summer 2026. Beyond this supply and demand will be mapped annually and reported within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
National Wraparound Pathfinder Programme - Monitor and provide support to schools that may not be sustainable beyond 31 st March 2026. Evaluate the success of the programme in Summer 2026	Summer 2026
2 year old disadvantage children, ensure sufficient places are available for all eligible children.	Ongoing
Continue to promote and market all early education and childcare offers and continually engage with parents.	Ongoing

9. Summary

9.1 Take up of early education and childcare

The take up of early education and childcare 2 Year Funding is 78%, which is higher than the national average calculated from the January 2025 Census of 65%.

The take up of the universal 3 and 4 year old offer is 92%, which is lower than the national average of 93%. We will continue to promote the universal offer with greater engagement in the community.

Year on year we are seeing an increase in the number of families accessing the 30 hours extended offer for 3 and 4 years olds. The percentage this term is 35.8%.

The take up of the working parents expanded offer for 2's and under has been exceptional and has increased since last year.

2 year olds working parent offer - 97% of potential eligible families accessed provision.

Under 2's working parent offer - 74% of potential eligible families accessed provision.

9.2 Wraparound childcare

The National Wraparound Childcare Programme is to financially support the expansion and creation of provision in or around every primary school, between September 2024 and March 2026, where there is no or limited provision available for working parents. The Early Years Team have worked closely with local primary schools and providers to encourage participation. As of October 2025, the available grant funding has supported the increase of 906 places supporting 31 primary schools.

9.3 Marketing and promotion

A key role of the Family Information Service is to provide information, advice, and guidance on childcare to parents and carers.

With the new expanded childcare entitlements becoming fully established this year for working families we have focused on parents and carers understanding. As a team we have worked hard to ensure parents and carers have a good understanding of the government early education and childcare funding entitlements and how and where they can access them. To do this we have:

- Updated our website accordingly to reflect the new childcare funding offers.
- Added a search function to the website for parents to search for childcare near to them.
- Regularly attended the Hull Women's and Children's hospital 'expectant parents Carousel' to ensure new parents have a good understanding of their childcare entitlements and how to access.

- Attended summer events and neighbourhood teams meetings to engage with parents/carers.
- Attended a range of school events such as open days and school fairs
- Advertised via JC Decoux boards on December 2024, February 2025, and June 2025.
- Advertised via Hull City Council News articles
May 2025
<https://news.hull.gov.uk/08/05/2025/find-out-about-the-free-childcare-support-available-to-you-including-childcare-places-and-breakfast-clubs/>
June 2025
<https://news.hull.gov.uk/05/06/2025/applications-open-for-30-hours-government-funded-childcare-provision/>
- Advertised via Hull Daily Mail
June 2025
https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/hull-working-parents-can-apply-10243788?utm_source=mynewsassistant.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=embedded_search_item_desktop
October 2025
https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/free-childcare-funding-two-year-10566539?utm_source=mynewsassistant.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=embedded_search_item_desktop
- Advertised via Hull and East Riding Mumbler
 - Advertisement in their paper guide for new parents which is distributed at all new parents in Hull and the East Riding.
 - Advertisement via their website and they share our social media posts
<https://hullandeastriding.mumbler.co.uk/family-information-service-fis-hull/>
- Advertisements internally to Hull City Council staff via Hull Talk Newsletters and CYPS eNews.
- Information shared with Job Centre, Reed Partnership and Employment Hub.
- Production of an FIS promotional poster and a range of leaflets and requested that the poster is displayed in foyers/receptions. Distributed to:
 - Schools
 - Childcare providers
 - Family Hubs
 - Leisure centres
 - Museums
 - Customer Service Centres
 - Community hubs
 - Social care teams
 - Hull City Council buildings
- Regular promotions of all government funded entitlements via our social media pages which are also shared by other professionals.

- Creation of a FIS promotion video saved on YouTube, shared on social media, amongst other departments, job centres, local business employers, Hull City Council digital screens, and via our website:
<https://youtu.be/Cer5IK6l0RQ>
- Regularly communicate with childcare providers and schools across the city to ensure they liaise the correct information to their parents/carers.

As section 3. Parent Feedback above, we surveyed parents and asked how informed they feel in relation to the government early education and childcare entitlements. Parents rated their understanding 4 out of 5, which is very positive. We will continue to promote the government entitlements and support parents/carers to access and identify new engagement opportunities.

9.4 Going forward

- To continue to assess the childcare market to ensure there are sufficient places. Whilst doing so, work with the local authorities Place Planning team to ensure we take into consideration all new housing developments that may have an impact of the need for additional childcare in those areas.
- To ensure children identified with SEND can access nursery provision with the appropriate support and funding in place.
- Work with the PVI sector to encourage parents, where possible, to consider accessing a maintained nursery place for their 3 and 4 year olds for a minimum of 2 terms prior to starting full time school.
- To continue to work closely with training providers and promote careers in early years. This will support the 21 early years practitioner vacancies across the city.
- To continue to work with local primary schools and out of school clubs to increase the availability of wraparound childcare across the city and to continually assess supply and demand.